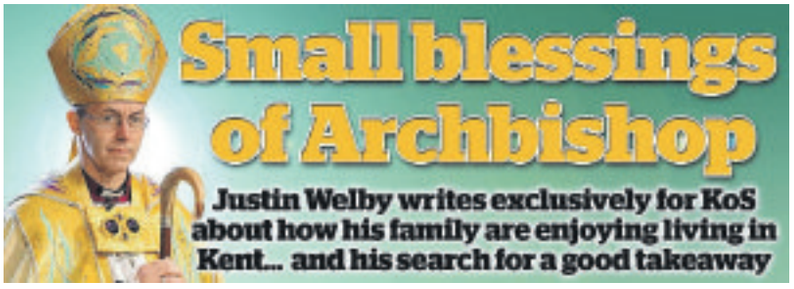

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www.kentnews.co.uk May 19, 2013 MID KENT EDITION Issue no 556

We reveal top 10 spots for violent crime across our county

Exclusive by Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE county's most violent areas can be revealed today after statistics painted a fascinating picture of Kent's crime hotspots.

The figures – revealed in a Freedom of Information request – shine a light on the wards recording the highest number of violent crimes, which include common assaults, grievous bodily harm and sexual offences.

Unsurprisingly, the most troubled areas are those in major town centres.

Top of the tree is Maidstone's High Street ward with 1,485 violent crimes between April 2010 and September 2012 – an average of 1.6 per day.

It, like many places on the list, sees figures spike as a result of the night-time economy and problems as people spill out of pubs and clubs.

Second on the list was Medway's River Ward with 1,402 reports of violent crime. Again, the ward covers the busy Chatham town centre.

Third was Thanet's Cliftonville West.

While the figures may seem alarming, community chiefs and police officers say they are all committed to bringing the numbers down.

When shown the figures, Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes stressed the county was a safe place to live and that the rate of violent crimes is lower than the national average.

But she said she would be speaking to the Chief Constable to ensure the wards at the top of the league table were subject to a higher police presence.

Denise Joy is Liberal Democrat councillor for Maidstone's High Street ward.

She says the community is working hard to bring the figures down further

Continued on page 2

THE DA VINCI CODE

ON DISPLAY: Sketches by the inventive artist to go on show in gallery – **SEE INSIDE**

SOCIETY

TV's Jones in tour of county

GRIFF Rhys Jones toured towns in east Kent this week in an effort to encourage local communities to take more pride in their towns.

The TV star, writer and president of the Civic Voice charity, was in Canterbury, Faversham, Ramsgate and Rochester on a four-day tour. **PAGE 3**

POLITICS

Where are all the women?

WITH only one woman named in the recent Conservative Party cabinet at Kent County Council, we have a special report on the role of women in local – and national – politics.

We speak to one academic who believes equality in power may still be 100 years away. Full report inside. **PAGE 4**

HORTICULTURE

Skills 'crisis' in the county

THE county's horticulture industry is in crisis and is only maintained by the hard work of a migrant workforce – predominantly from eastern Europe, it is claimed.

And the finger of blame is pointed at schools for not placing enough importance on it in the classroom. **PAGE 18**

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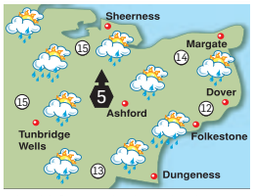

TODAY: Cloudy with light rain. Light, variable winds. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F).
TONIGHT: There will be further outbreaks of rain. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	06.17	5.3	18.50	5.5
Margate	07.08	3.9	19.31	4.0
St Mary's	–	–	12.15	4.3

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 17C	Min 9C
Tuesday	Max 18C	Min 8C
Wednesday	Max 16C	Min 7C
Thursday	Max 16C	Min 8C
Friday	Max 16C	Min 9C
Saturday	Max 17C	Min 8C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CRIME

Do you live in a hot spot area for violent crime?

Continued from front page

after a steady decline in the last two years.

She said: "The better visibility of Kent Police has helped reduce violent crime, gun and knife crime, serious sexual violence and domestic abuse. And for the night-time economy, there has been a greater police presence in areas where main pubs and clubs are located.

"Another factor is that our ward is one of the most deprived wards in the country, not merely in the south east, and as such carries more of the evils that come with deprivation. This sometimes gets forgotten in the general affluence of the borough."

Craig Mackinlay was the Conservative candidate in last year's bid to become PCC. He serves as a councillor for River ward, on Medway Council, which incorporates Chatham town centre.

He was unsurprised the area was second in the league table. He explained: "We do have this entrenched drinking and drug taking problem in the middle of River ward. You can see the street drinking problem on a daily basis.

"It is a worry."

Thanet's Cliftonville West is the only area to feature in the top six that is not a traditional town centre. Despite this, the ward saw 1,020 violent crimes in the 913-day period. Margate Central, with 954, was fourth.

Leader of Thanet council, Clive Hart, represents the ward for Labour.

He said: "In Cliftonville West and Margate Central we have a task force where teams work together to police matters of anti-social behaviour and social problems.

"There's no doubt we have huge problems in Cliftonville West and Margate Central.

"I don't want to forgive people or give them an excuse for how they behave but outside pressures affect people in densely populated areas. If there are financial pressures on people already facing benefit cuts, tempers can fray.

"We will be looking at it carefully and seeing what we can do about it."

Folkestone's Harvey Central was fifth with 948.

PCC Ann Barnes told KoS: "Kent is not a violent place to live and as a county we are below the national average. Most of the wards mentioned are in town centres that often suffer from night-time related incidents.

"I know Kent Police takes a relentless stance against anyone who commits a violent act.

"I'm always out and about talking to the public and violent crime is not an issue that has been raised.

"That said, I will not be complacent and will be speaking to the Chief Constable to seek reassurance on the policing in those particular wards."

TOP 10 VIOLENT CRIME HOT SPOTS

Maidstone High Street	1,485	**Canterbury** Westgate	828
Medway River	1,402	**Dartford** Town	819
Thanet Cliftonville West	1,020	**Medway** Chatham Central	778
Thanet Margate Central	954	**Ashford** Victoria	746
Folkestone Harvey Central	948	**Thanet** Eastcliffe	707

Violent crimes recorded between April 2010 and September 2012. Source: Kent Police

COMING UP IN THE NEXT MONTH

Homes & Gardens
May 26
As spring moves towards summer, we take a look at ways to transform your home and how your garden can bloom into something extra special this year.

Business Quarter
June 9
A round-up of the biggest business stories, profiles and analysis of the markets.

Motability
June 16
We look at some of the fantastic offers and deals available through approved dealers.

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COMMUNITY

Comedian sets out to inspire us with a sense of civic responsibility

By Dave Mairs
dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

WRITER and presenter Griff Rhys Jones came to town this week to highlight the work of the nation's civic societies and encourage more people to get involved with protecting the best of their villages, towns and cities.

The comedian-turned-urban champion spent four days in the county on a whistle-stop tour that took in Canterbury, Ramsgate, Faversham and Rochester.

Mr Jones, who is president of Civic Voice – the national charity for the civic movement in England – got things under way on Wednesday with a speech to help launch A Residents' Vision For Canterbury, a document produced by volunteers as an alternative way forward for a city whose local authority has just revealed proposals for thousands of new houses in the district.

The following day he visited Ramsgate's Ellington Park, a rundown place now the subject of a Heritage Lottery regeneration bid, and the site of the former Ramsgate Motor Museum, where Project Motorhouse aims to bring back the now-dilapidated building to community use.

Mr Jones told KoS: "I make these little tours when I can.

"I've already been to the Sheffield area, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire... eventually I hope to cover the whole country.

"I'm anxious to get over the message that we want more people to join us."

Mr Jones is best known as part of the hit TV comedy Not the Nine O'Clock News – starring alongside Rowan Atkinson, Mel Smith and Pamela Stephenson in the multi-award-winning sketch show.

He went on to enjoy more success in Alas Smith and Jones with Mel Smith, before making a fortune through his stake in production company Hat Trick. More recently, he has starred alongside Dara O'Briain and Rory McGrath in the BBC's Three Men in a Boat adventures as well as presenting Restoration, which showcased his passion for the nation's forgotten architectural gems.

He added: "I became involved with the Civic Trust four or five years ago and was asked to be its president."

Sadly, within a year, it had "over-reached itself and went bust".

That, however, was not the end of the story and in place of the trust came Civic Voice, which today has 75,000 members and represents 300 civic societies across the country.

Mr Jones added: "The civic societies do the work of looking after the heritage and built landscape of Britain. What most people don't realise is the amount of work they do keeping an eye on planning – if they didn't, you'd be surprised by the way many planning applications went through unopposed."

■ **For a full interview with Griff Rhys Jones, see next week's KoS.**

CIVIC VOICE: Griff Rhys Jones outside Custom House in Ramsgate, during his tour of the county

CRIME

Swans found shot dead

A POLICE investigation is under way after two dead swans were found in woods near Wrotham - both of them shot through the neck.

They were found dumped in woodland off Terrys Lodge Road last Saturday.

PC Daphne Allen said: "The death of these swans was no accident. They have been deliberately shot through the neck and dumped.

"They may have been shot locally, or they may have been hunted in the wild and then their bodies driven to the location and left there."

RESCUE

Puppy falls in 30ft hole

A PUPPY had to be rescued from the bottom of a 30ft hole after going missing for four days.

Brody, a 15-month-old red setter retriever cross, went missing from his home in Mystole, near Canterbury, last Saturday. His owners heard his whimpers on Wednesday night. He was rescued by the RSPCA and firefighters.

A vet checked him over – he was unharmed.

TRIBUTE

Service for Denness

A MEMORIAL service will take place at Canterbury Cathedral on July 1 to celebrate the life of former Kent and England cricket captain Mike Denness.

He died last month from cancer. He was 72.

EDUCATION

Competition heats up as interest in the future of K College grows

MORE than 50 organisations have expressed interest in taking over parts of K College – with its future set to be decided over the coming weeks.

The cash-strapped college – which has campuses in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Folkestone and Dover – is to be broken up after it ran up debts of £16 million last year.

It blamed debts inherited from its creation through the merger of West Kent and South Kent colleges in 2010.

Now a prospectus has been launched by the Skills Funding Agency, Education Funding Agency and the Higher Education Funding Council. This will spark the first competition of its kind in the UK to win the contract to pick up the right to manage the college going forward.

It has been proposed the establishment is split into two – one division containing Dover and Folkestone, the other the 'in-land' campuses.

It means K College will continue in its current form until July 2014 before it is taken over.

Currently, it caters for some 15,000 full and part-time students across Kent – making it one of the most significant providers of further education in the county.

K College interim principal, Phil Frier, who took over in the new year, said: "There is a lot of interest from other colleges, training providers and universities in bidding for the work currently operating across all five towns.

"It is particularly good news for current and future learners, as it guarantees that further and higher education currently served by campuses in Ashford, Dover, Folkestone, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells will continue to be provided.

"This year, young people have more educational options available to them than ever before, because for the first time, they will have to stay in education until they are 18.

"That doesn't mean they have to stay in school. There are many different opportunities to learn new subjects and skills and K College continues to provide students with a full range of skills, training and qualifications.

"Success rates increased again last year by nearly five per cent."

K College guarantees every student starting a course this September will be supported through to completion.

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POLITICS

How do we bridge the gender gap

Special KoS Report

Recent local elections have highlighted the disparity of ladies on our political

POWER BASE: Only 16 women councillors were elected on to Kent County Council at the last election

WHEN Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, unveiled his new-look cabinet earlier this month, the 10-strong team to lead the county included just one woman.

On Wednesday night, Medway Council also reshuffled its cabinet – and there were just two roles, out of the nine, for women.

In the chambers of both authorities, women are hopelessly outnumbered.

So why the disparity? Why, in this modern era, more than 30 years after Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister, in a county where the latest population figures suggest women outnumber men, are women so poorly represented in the corridors of power?

Political insiders have predicted it will take a major shift in our inherent culture to see the number of female politicians rival that of males.

One academic told KoS it will take 100 years, if not more, to see a 50/50 split in Westminister – let alone on a local level.

It was also argued that political role models such as the late Margaret Thatcher and current home secretary Theresa May, were unlikely to make much difference to female numbers due to the "ingrained culture" of a male-dominated political world.

The issue is nothing new, and something which all major parties have sought to address.

Jenny Whittle is the only woman on the KCC cabinet, holding the portfolio for specialist children's services.

She told KoS the small number of women elected onto KCC (see box opposite) should send a stark message out to all political parties.

"It's a wake-up call and a serious question for Paul Carter that just one in five members are women on Kent County Council," she said.

Mr Carter, however, said much of the problem was encouraging women to come forward in the first place – although he stressed things are better than they were 10-15 years ago.

"The more women we have [on KCC] the better. It's absolutely important to have a balance – we're all different. We need people who know what it's like to be a mother in Kent, or someone who knows what it's like to be a dad in Kent," he said.

"A lot of women fear being sucked into something they can't cope with; managing a family, a job and being a county councillor. But there's a pretty flexible approach here to allow for this."

Cllr Whittle, however, admitted that juggling a family with her work at County Hall was sometimes a struggle.

"I think this may be why some women are put off, and I also think some women are put off by adversarial politics, but the parties do work well together at KCC," she said.

"From a personal perspective, I think it's hard to balance running a household and a family as well as dealing with county politics – it's a 24/7 job.

"I love doing it, but it's a struggle sometimes.

"I can't have a job as well – I thought I would be able to work and be on KCC too, but I have a daughter, I'm married, there's a lot to do."

Cllr Carter stressed that to encourage women to come forward, more needed to be done to raise the profile of the role of a councillor and how they help communities.

"I do believe some of the negative reporting by the press [about councils] doesn't help.

"In truth it is a very rewarding position," he explained.

Asked why there was just one women on his cabinet, he said: "The best people for the jobs get them, that's how it works."

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone, is parliamentary under-secretary of state for justice, women and equalities and minister for victims and the courts:

ON women in politics: The numbers may appear low but in Parliament the trend is encouraging.

Between the end of the war in 1945 and 1983 there were typically around 25 women MPs in Parliament, less than four per cent.

Since that time numbers started to increase and have done so at every general election. Now there are 146 which is 22 per cent and at the last election, in my own party, female MPs increased from 17 to 49, an increase of almost 200 per cent.

I believe the pump is well and truly primed – but candidates still need to be selected before they can be elected and this critical task remains the remit of each local association. It is vital, therefore, that associations are presented with a diverse range of options one way or another.

ON the atmosphere in male-dominated Parliament: The House of Commons debating chamber is a very tough environment but I would say that it is not a 'male' thing. Everyone there is immensely sharp and capable. You need to know your stuff and keep your wits about you. Preparation is everything, but that is true in many walks of life.

ON the importance of female role models in politics: Role models are vital and an essential part of the process of attracting and nurturing new talent. They show what can be achieved by example, they inspire and they can also provide confidence-building, guidance and mentoring in what is an unfamiliar environment for most people.

But he stressed those decisions had nothing to do with gender.

Of the 402 candidates who stood in the election, only 94 of them were women – just 23 per cent. And in Parliament, Kent has just three female MPs of its 17 constituencies.

But why is it that women are not being voted in? Is it the parties not selecting enough female candidates? Or are not enough women putting themselves forward?

Dr Ben Seyd, lecturer in British and compara-

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to see more women in politics?

landscape but, as **Marijke Cox** reports, plans are afoot to encourage a change in this situation

Power in numbers: Kent and Medway councils

84 Total number of KCC councillors

16 Total number of women elected

19% Women's share of councillors

10 Size of Kent County Council cabinet

1 Number of women cabinet members

55 Total number of Medway councillors

16 Total number of women elected

29% Women's share of councillors

9 Size of Medway cabinet

2 Number of women cabinet members

2011 mid-year Census based population figures

1,466,500 – total population of Kent (excl. Medway)
51% – women
49% – men

MPs in Westminster

650 – total number of MPs
503 – male MPs
147 – female MPs

Women who have made it in Kent

Baroness Thatcher was one of the first women to stand, albeit unsuccessful, as a parliamentary hopeful in Kent, for the Dartford seat in 1950 and then again in 1951.

Another high-profile female politician to represent the county was Ann Widdecombe, who held the Maidstone seat from 1987, until she stepped down in 2010.

Some headway was made in the 2010 General Election when women took three of the county's 17 seats: Tracey Crouch, above left, (Chatham and Aylesford – Tory), Laura Sandys, centre, (Thanet South – Tory) and Helen Grant (Maidstone and The Weald – Tory).

In the first ever Police and Crime Commissioner election last November, Ann Barnes (right) stormed to victory standing as an independent.

tive politics at the University of Kent, doesn't think 'power equality' will happen any time soon.

"To get to that 50 per cent level from 20 per cent is going to take decades – perhaps 100 years or so," he said.

"There's an ingrained attitude and it's very difficult to change this in a system which is up and running.

"Parties are used to selecting male candidates and it's difficult to encourage them to choose women. Some parties almost have to force constituencies to find female candidates.

"They have realised how difficult it is to change this. If you have a male MP and they want to continue to stand, it's very difficult to replace them with a female candidate.

"When seats do become open, it's always going to be difficult if the parties are selecting men [to stand]. Parties need to be persuaded to choose more female candidates."

Cllr Whittle, who said she had been welcomed with open arms onto the cabinet and has faced no sexism since been elected in 2009, said parties needed to look at different ways of reaching out to people to get more women, as well as candidates who are of working age.

"We shouldn't just go to the traditional associations; instead, go through Mumsnet, put adverts in the local press," she said.

"Get a wider field of candidates; not just women, but people of working age, different types of people, not just those who have retired.

"We need to look at how to reach out to candidates. We don't just want 'yes' men – we want someone who challenges."

Dr Seyd admitted there was no clear reason why, despite women becoming equal to men in most other walks of life, they were making slower progress in politics.

He said: "It may well be there are more high-flying males who have had successful careers putting themselves forward. That's changing and we're seeing more women in the same position.

"But I suspect if you look at the number of women coming forward, they are just not getting selected.

"There's a blockage in the system. I think the real answer is we really don't know why."

He stressed that the proportion of female politicians has increased over the years, which was a positive step forward.

"Labour has introduced a woman-only selection process and David Cameron has tried to do the same for the Tories," he said.

"On a local level it's less high profile and so the parties may not make it so important, therefore I suspect there are less female politicians locally."

Despite high status female politicians such as the late Baroness Thatcher and home secretary Theresa May, Dr Seyd said this was unlikely to encourage more women to take up politics.

"You can't rely on role models to work," he said.

Campaign group Counting Women In, which is pushing to get more women into politics, says solving the problem of the lack of women will not be easy.

"We need to make the UK's political culture work for, not against, women," the group said.

"We need to change the culture of Parliament. The House of Commons routinely sits until 10pm at night; there is no consistent agreed parental leave policy for MPs and little in the way of child support for members.

"Political parties must do more to encourage women. Very few people break into politics without the support of a political party, but all too often women considering standing as a candidate come up against old-fashioned and sexist attitudes about the role of women in public life.

"The media needs to change tack. Women in politics can find themselves subject to the kind of media attention men in public life rarely experience – with their actual views and voting records given scant attention in comparison to their appearance."

The group stressed it was also down to women to get involved to help bring the number up to 50/50 – or we face another century of male-dominated politics.

■ **What do you think? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

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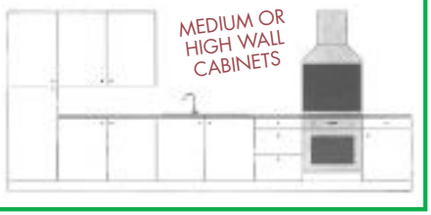

COMPETITION

Word's out as hundreds respond to competition

NEARLY 300 entries have already been received for this month's 100-word short story competition.

Organised by Kent County Council and supported by KoS and BBC Radio Kent, it is designed to form part of National Share a Story month. The competition is open to anyone and can be on any topic.

The only restriction is your story should be no longer than 100 words. And if 100 words sounds a bit too brief, that is part of the fun.

There are four age categories: school Year 2 and under, Year 3-6, Year 7-11 and adults.

Closing date is May 31.

There will be prizes for the winners in each category of £50 in book tokens and £10 tokens for the runners-up.

To enter, visit www.kent.gov.uk/100words. Or send your story via post, including your name, contact details and which category you are entering to: 100 Word Stories c/o Business Support Team, Kent County Council, County Hall, County Road, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ.

HERITAGE

Crumbling cathedral quashes fear of closure despite failed lottery bid

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CANTERBURY Cathedral chiefs have strenuously denied claims the historic building may be forced to close after it lost out on a bid to land a multi-million pound lottery grant.

They say despite the blow of losing out on the £10.6 million request to the Heritage Lottery Fund to help pay for essential structural repairs, they will not be closing the cathedral's doors.

There had been claims some parts of the cathedral were crumbling to the extent it posed a risk to visitors.

Spokesman Chris Robinson said it will stay open to the public despite two-thirds of the historic building being in urgent need of repair, including the main gatehouse and entrance.

He said: "The Germans didn't force us to close Canterbury Cathedral during World War Two so there's no chance it will be closed to visitors because we need to carry out some urgent repairs. The reports were greatly exaggerated.

"We are in the process of looking at our bid and obtaining feedback as to why it was not successful."

The cathedral's dean, Robert Willis, said it was possible to submit another request in November.

He added: "We remain committed to restoring the cathedral and to offering our many pilgrims and visitors a warm and rewarding experience."

RESTORATION: Canterbury Cathedral would have used the £10.6m lottery grant to fund urgent repairs

Each year, more than a million people visit Canterbury Cathedral, which receives no support from the Church of England.

Instead it is dependent on the generosity of individuals, trusts and foundations.

Katie Owen of the Heritage Lottery Fund said: "Of course it's disappointing. We've funded many cathedrals over the years – including Durham and Exeter – but unfortunately we simply do not have enough money."

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OPINION

Living in a beautiful city is a privilege, now I just need to find my way around

In an exclusive column for KoS, **Justin Welby**, the Archbishop of Canterbury, discusses how he and his family are settling into their new lives in Kent and how they're still working out the best takeaway restaurants to frequent...

THE last year has been full of surprises – a new job being one of them.

But within those surprises have been many blessings, including now having a home in Canterbury where we can spend part of our time.

A base in Kent is hugely important to us. It's a place where we can come and be refreshed and renewed.

Getting settled hasn't been all plain sailing; we are still trying to figure out which is the best takeaway in Canterbury – and still getting lost most times we step out of our front door.

But we feel deeply privileged to call this place home. We can see now why it's called the Garden of England.

We keep nudging each other, slightly in awe, and saying: "This place is amazing. It's so beautiful."

From Romney Marsh to Dover, from the Medway Towns to the North Downs, there is so much to visit, and so many people to meet – the daunting thing is whether we will manage to do it all.

In addition, the Diocese of Canterbury, which is the oldest in the Church of England, is extremely important to me as an archbishop.

As the months and years unfold, I'm looking forward to working with the Bishop of Dover to support the priests throughout the diocese, helping them to grow the communities in their churches. This means doing the simple things: taking services, meeting people, listening to stories, sharing the Gospel, inviting people to discover the love of Jesus Christ for themselves – and worshipping God alongside everyone else.

Put simply, the people and churches of Canterbury will help me to stay in step with the normal rhythm of Christian life.

Next month, I'll be taking the services at Canterbury Cathedral where new deacons and priests will be ordained. Commissioning new ministry in the church will be a humbling reminder that men and women continue to devote themselves to living out their love of God.

I hope to meet some of you there, or elsewhere in Kent over the exciting and challenging years to come.

NEW HOME: Justin Welby and his family are settling into sharing their life between London and Canterbury, which they describe as 'amazing and beautiful'

SLOW FOOD

Justin Welby was enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of March in a service beamed live on television and attended by the likes of the Prime Minister David Cameron and leader of the opposition, Ed Miliband.

A former oil company excutive, he replaced Dr Rowan Williams as head of the Church of England at the start of the year – moving into the archbishop's traditional home at Lambeth Palace in London, as well as finding a home in Canterbury.

In a recent interview with the Financial Times, he mentioned how difficult it has been to get pizza delivered to his London residency.

He explains: "So they ring up and say, 'this Lambeth Palace, where is it?'. And I say, 'Where are you?'. 'I'm by Lambeth Bridge.' 'OK. Can you see a 60ft tall red brick gatehouse?' 'No.'"

Leaving the archbishop having to go outside and collect the pizza himself.

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HISTORY

Remembering heroes of the Dambuster raids

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

IT was 70 years ago this week that a key blow was struck at Germany's very heart; the origins of which are closely tied to our county.

It was on May 16-17, 1943, that daring attacks – later known as the Dambuster raids and immortalised in a major movie – saw the Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron drop so-called 'bouncing bombs' which evaded enemy defences and destroyed two key dams, and damaged another, in Germany's industrial heartland.

Designed by inventor Sir Barnes Wallis, the bombs caused catastrophic damage to the Mohne and Eder dams and damage to a third, the Sorpe.

German factories, railways, towns and villages were flooded across the Ruhr Valley in one of the most famous military actions of all time.

Squadron Leader David Maltby, from Wickhambreaux, near Canterbury, was the pilot of aircraft call sign "J-Johnny" – the fifth Lancaster to drop a bomb on the giant Mohne Dam and the one which caused its final breach.

He was part of the first wave of aircraft to attack the dam.

For his part in the raid – codenamed Operation Chastise – Sqdn Ldr Maltby was awarded a DSO.

But tragically the pilot was killed a few months later during Operation Garlic, a failed attempt at a low-level raid on the Dortmund-Ems Canal.

His aircraft crashed into the North Sea while returning to base after the mission was cancelled due to fog. His body was recovered and he was buried in St Andrew's Church, Wickhambreaux – the scene of his marriage to Georgina 'Nina' Goodson, just months earlier.

"He used to fly over the house and waggle the wings of his aircraft to say hello," said his nephew, Charles Foster, who has written a book about his distinguished relative called Breaking the Dams.

One of the brave pilots in the raid perished on that fateful night.

Herne Bay museum has an exhibit dedicated to Pilot Officer Warner 'Bill' Ottley, from the town, who was shot down in the early hours of May 17 as he approached a target.

The level of detail to make the bombs work had meant earlier exhaustive testing, some which took place off the coast at Reculver.

Andrew Dennis, RAF Museum historian, said: "Testing was conducted in Dorset, but due to lower water levels caused by spring tides other coastal venues were sought. Reculver was selected due to its wide flat beach and the proximity to an airfield, RAF Manston."

One of the prototype bombs is currently on display in Herne Bay's museum.

■ **A prototype bouncing bomb and P/O Ottley's photo and medal are at Herne Bay Museum and Gallery (open daily, 10am-4pm). Breaking the Dams is published by Pen and Sword.**

Picture: MALTBY FAMILY

PILOT: Sqdn Ldr Maltby and his wife Nina (centre) on their wedding day in Wickhambreaux – and after, the scene of destruction caused on the Mohne Dam by Maltby and his Dambuster comrades during raid

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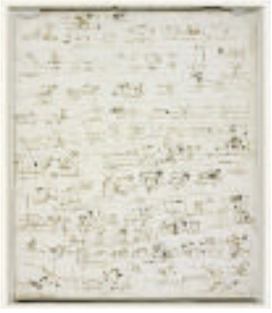
ART

Coup for gallery as Queen loans her Da Vinci sketches for new exhibition



REAL OLD MASTER'S: Three pieces by Leonardo da Vinci from the Queen's collection will be on show in Margate from May 25 until September 15

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

DRAWINGS from one of the most famous names in the world of art and design will appear by the seaside this summer as the Turner Contemporary exhibits pieces by Leonardo da Vinci.

The influential Italian artist, sculptor and architect is best known for the world-famous painting the Mona Lisa, as well his design work which included primitive sketches of helicopters and tanks, centuries before they were developed.

Now, in what will be seen as a coup for the Margate gallery, three examples of da Vinci's scientific drawings will be go on show.

They are on loan from the Queen's Royal Collection and had recently formed part of an exhibition on display at Buckingham Palace.

The trio of works will make up part of the Hayward Touring exhibition's Curiosity: Art and the Pleasures of Knowing which will be at the gallery from May 25 until September 15.

Martin Clayton, senior curator at the Royal Collection Trust, said: "The three Leonardo drawings the Queen is lending to Turner Contemporary are among the most fascinating works in the whole Royal Collection.

"It is one of the aims of Royal Collection Trust to bring such works to the widest possible audience, and we are delighted the people of Kent will be able to experience Leonardo's inventiveness at first hand."

The pieces show astronomical and geometrical studies by the renaissance artist, dating from the late 15th and early 16th centuries.

Director of Turner Contemporary, Victoria Pomery, added: "This exhibition gives visitors a rare opportunity to view the work of Leonardo da Vinci in Margate as well as experience a wealth of wonderful artefacts and artworks."

The exhibition will include historic pieces such as Albrecht Dürer's Rhinoceros, Robert Hooke's Micrographia with its detailed illustration of a flea as well as beautiful bird studies by the gallery's namesake JMW Turner. There is also a penguin collected from one of Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expeditions loaned from the Powell-Cotton Museum in Birchington-on-Sea.

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POLITICS

Controversial children's services boss dropped

'The great mystery is how he was allowed to preside over this catalogue of disasters for so long'

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

EMBATTLED children's services chief Les Wicks, who has been at the centre of controversy over ongoing problems with education in Medway, has lost his place on the cabinet.

It follows calls for his resignation following a catalogue of scandals including Medway's poor primary exam results, significant overspends on both Woodlands and Walderslade schools and a high-profile blunder over Medway Test exams.

He also came in for fierce criticism in February after a damning Ofsted report which found child protection services at Medway, for which he was responsible, inadequate – the lowest possible rating. Inspectors found that some vulnerable children in Medway were not getting adequate protection.

Cllr Wicks apologised, but critics called for him to resign, stating it was yet another in a long line of problems in the department he oversaw.

In the council's annual meeting on Wednesday night, leader of Medway Council, Rodney Chambers, announced a cabinet re-shuffle with Cllr Wicks, Conservative member for Rainham South, losing his place.

David Wildey, previously in charge of children's social care, was also shown the door.

Both men have seen their roles combined. Mike O'Brien will now oversee a revamped children's services. Kelly Tolhurst assumes the newly created role of educational improvement.

ALL CHANGE: Cllr Les Wicks is off the cabinet. Right, council leader Rodney Chambers

Cllr Wicks refused to comment when we contacted him.

Except for a public apology following the damning Ofsted report earlier this year, Cllr Wicks has continuously refused to comment or return our calls when contacted over problems during his time in office.

Education consultant Peter Read, of Kent Independent Education Advice, said for years Cllr Wicks has blamed everybody else for the failure of Medway schools to deliver an adequate service for children in the area.

"Some of the notable scandals during his reign include the shocking Ofsted standard of Medway schools, the shocking Key Stage Two results, the scandal of the 2011 Medway Test and the scandal of Woodlands School," he said.

"Last year, the director of children's services in Medway fell on her sword. There were calls for Les Wicks to resign in February/March of this year. Frankly, in my opinion, any responsible official head should have resigned at that point.

"The great mystery is how and why he was allowed to preside over this catalogue of disasters for so long."

Labour's Vince Maple, who was one of the political rivals calling for his resignation, said Cllr Wicks has paid the "ultimate price for a catalogue of failures".

"We have repeatedly said that the parents, pupils, professionals and the wider community of Medway had no confidence in Cllr Wicks," said Cllr Maple. "I hope we see positive change for the 70,000 young people of Medway."

Some 800 parents and residents signed a petition calling for Cllr Wicks to go.

At the same meeting, new Mayor of Medway, Josie Iles, took over the mayoral chains of office for the coming year from outgoing mayor Vaughan Hewett.

The new mayor's charities for 2013/14 will be Demelza Kent, Help the Heroes, Medway Age UK and Caring Hands in the Community.

THE FULL MAKE UP OF THE NEW CABINET

Leader Rodney Chambers
Deputy leader and finance Alan Jarrett
Adult services David Brake
Children's services (lead member) Mike O'Brien
Educational improvement Kelly Tolhurst
Community safety and customer contact David Carr
Front line services Phil Filmer
Housing and community services Howard Doe
Strategic development and economic growth Jane Chitty

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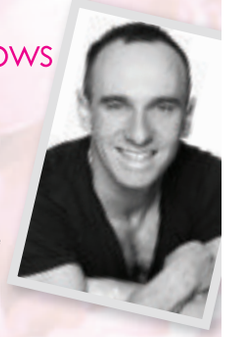

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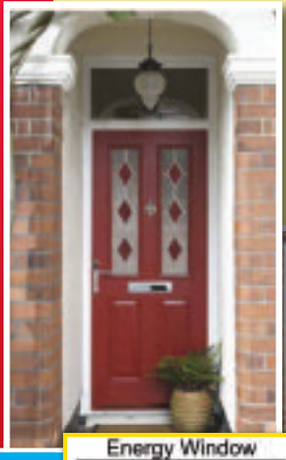

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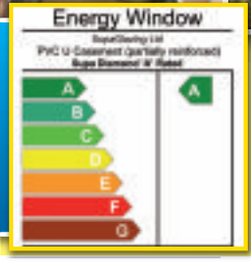

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CHARITY

Scally has a heart with

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

EVERY year, away from the glare of publicity, Gillingham Football Club chairman Paul Scally makes a very special, very personal, journey.

He boards a plane, along with a number of surgeons from a top London children's hospital, and together they fly to Sri Lanka.

There the medical experts perform vital life-saving operations on children suffering from serious heart conditions.

Mr Scally, one of the main fundraisers for the annual trip, offers help and support to the families who have to experience the highs and lows such essential surgery can bring.

To many, it is a supportive shoulder during a time of great worry. For others, if surgery is too little, too late, it is comforting the bereaved.

But the devastating loss of a child is something the football chief is only too aware of.

In 2003, Mr Scally's son, Elliot, died at just 16 weeks after being born with a heart defect.

It had a profound impact on the often bullish club chairman, who has since devoted much time to raising awareness and funds for the Elliot Scally Trust. It, in turn, donated funds to the likes of Demelza – £40,000 in 2011 – and is now affiliated with the Take Heart Mercy Mission which organise the trips to Sri Lanka.

"My son died at Guy's Hospital, which is where the cardiologist John Simpson was working," Mr Scally explains. "He was the person who told me my son had a week to live.

SAVING LIVES: Gills' Paul Scally, right, travels to Sri Lanka with heart surgeons to help change the lives of young children with vital operations

"I struck up a very close friendship with him at the hospital. He told me about the charity some time later and asked if I could help.

"The charity didn't have a very strong identity. When the former chairman died, I got together with the surgeons at the hospital and we agreed to carry it on."

The group includes Dr Simpson and Conal Austin, both renowned cardiologists at the Evelina Children's Hospital – a purpose-built facility next to Guy's. They jet out to Sri Lanka for 12 days at a time, carrying out three to four operations a day for ten days. They also involve local surgeons to pass on their knowledge.

But such efforts don't come cheap. All are funded by donations, with each visit costing more than £30,000.

Explains Mr Scally: "We get the cheapest flights, cheapest hotels, so we watch our cost, but it is still about £1,500 per operation. All our staff are volunteers and take holidays from work to come on the trip.

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vital mercy mission

"For people to have heart surgery in Sri Lanka is very expensive, so pretty much no one can afford it. It is very emotional, you see people who have absolutely nothing but the clothes they stand in."

Mr Scally's last visit in September was the first time he has taken on the role of consoling the families of those who do not survive surgery.

He explains: "To be able to go down there and save lives is a huge buzz. It's a very humbling experience and a great leveller for me. It's such a deviation from my normal life in football and so many people want to help.

"I try to work where I can, by organising and planning logistics, like the hotels, and get them clothes and equipment.

"I do the aftercare as well with the families. By the very definition of our work not every case is a success. There are normally two or three that aren't successful. I deal with the families of the children who die.

"It is not something I would have ever been involved in before. They are so gracious and humble and thankful that at least their child had a chance. I dare say had my son not died I wouldn't know about this."

He is hoping to role out a healthy living initiative across schools in Kent starting in September, when he will also be going on another visit to Sri Lanka.

"There is a real ignorance about how a heart works, how we can keep it fit and how we can damage it," he said. "What we are going to do is develop an education programme in Kent. We want someone to go into every school and deliver a message in a properly constructed programme."

■ **See the website www.takeheartmercymission.com for more information.**

TAKE HEART MERCY MISSION'S TWO MAIN GOALS

1 To save the lives of babies and youngsters in Sri Lanka – performing intricate and complicated operations on children who would otherwise die from various heart conditions.

2 To pass on expertise to medical teams in Sri Lanka, so that doctors and surgeons can carry out similar operations throughout the year and save many more lives in the future.

CHARITY BIKE RIDE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Take Heart Mercy Mission is set to be a beneficiary of a county-wide charity cycle ride; the Tour de Kent.

It involves cycling more than 200 miles while visiting 21 football clubs around the county.

The challenge has been organised by Roger Maddams who is raising money for heart charities following the death of his 17-year-old son Jack in 2008 – at the time, a trainee with the Gills.

The ride takes in Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium, before visiting Margate, Deal, Dover, Maidstone, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, and Dartford while stopping off at many other grounds along the way.

The heart charities benefiting from the funds raised are CRY, a youth cardiac research charity, and the Take Heart Mercy Mission.

The Tour de Kent takes place on the bank holiday weekend, May 25-27. There are a range of different options depending on your cycling experience.

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CHILD CARE

Fostering figures show huge east/west disparity in county

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SOCIAL care chiefs are urging people living in the west of the county to open their doors to vulnerable children after it emerged east Kent has more than three times the number of foster carers.

In figures which once again highlight the divide between what is seen as the affluent west and the poorer east, the number of registered foster carers was shown to be significantly higher in the latter.

While cabinet member for specialist children's services at Kent County Council, Jenny Whittle, said this number was higher because there was a greater need in the east, she stressed the authority needed to "up the ante" and increase numbers where there were shortages in other parts of the county.

"We do as much as we can where we need them most, but we need to get more KCC-registered foster carers in the west, north and south."

She said the council's focus was recruiting in-house carers directly employed by KCC, rather than through independent agencies, which have higher overheads.

And she stressed the council could offer a good support package and training.

Commenting on the east/west divide, she explained: "Perhaps it is because areas like Tunbridge Wells are considered affluent so people assume there is less need.

"However, families can break down for many reasons, wherever they come from, and this is when children really need our help.

"We really need foster carers across the whole of Kent because if they are not available, children may be placed far from home, families and friends or in a children's home instead of a family environment."

Figures released by KCC to coincide with Foster Care Fortnight (May 13-26) show the number of registered foster carers in the west of the county is 103, in the north 122, south 185 and in the east 341.

Cllr Whittle added: "Even though we are encouraging people in west and north Kent to come forward, we do not want people in the east and south to think they are not needed too.

"People can leave fostering at any time, perhaps to retire or because they adopt the children they are looking after, so more people are needed all the time."

Traditionally, the east suffers from more social issues than the west, such as a higher number of children in care, out-of-county children being relocated to coastal towns and more children under child protection plans.

But KCC said it was essential to have foster carers across Kent to allow children in care to stay closer to home, friends and family.

Nationally, more children are entering care meaning more foster carers are needed.

Charity the Fostering Network also warned that children are being moved too many times between foster families.

Chief executive of the organisation, Robert Tapsfield, said: "The challenge for fostering services is to find the right foster carers with the right skills in the right place for each child.

■ **To find out more visit www.kent-fostering.co.uk, email fostering@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 330 2968.**

SOUL-SEARCHING: There are three times more foster carers in east Kent compared to the west

CASE STUDY

FORMER HM Custom and Excise worker Catherine Atkins, from Dartford, became a foster carer eight years ago.

"Fostering is a challenge – I would definitely recommend it.

"However, it is not something to be taken lightly. You need a passion for looking after children and real commitment to them.

"Foster children do come with issues, and although you are given lots of information about their backgrounds, no-one can possibly know some of the things they may have seen or heard.

"It can sometimes be difficult to recognise when you are making a difference because you are so close to the situation.

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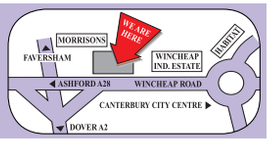

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SOUTHEASTERN is reminding rail passengers a new timetable comes into force today.

It includes a number of tweaks to services on mainline routes and advises all users to check before setting out.

In addition, all services running between Ramsgate and Charing Cross will be diverted into Victoria today due to engineering work.

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HORTICULTURE

Food shortage fears as interest in the growing industry withers

Exclusive by Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A LEADING horticultural seat of learning says the industry faces a crisis and is only kept afloat by an influx of migrant workers – primarily from eastern Europe.

Hadlow College, which specialises in land management, lays the blame on schools and government for not routinely and persistently teaching and promoting the interests of horticulture.

Just days before the Royal Horiticultural Society's annual showcase – the Chelsea Flower Show – gets under way, the college near Tonbridge paints a worrying picture of an industry which has traditionally been one of the backbones of the Garden of England's economy.

Hadlow spokeswoman Pat Crawford said: "The production horticulture industry relating to food is absolutely desperate for new entrants like graduates and skilled people.

"We are not attracting sufficient young people and the reason for this is because the schools, parents and the young people themselves, are unaware of the career opportunities within this industry.

"It is seen as an 'also ran' which it's not."

Three years ago, Lantra, a land-based skills organisation, said around 60,000 new people were needed to allow the industry to flourish. Experts believe that the number remains the same today.

Horitculture is worth £9 billion annually to the British economy, employing 300,000 people from crop growers and gardeners to scientists, tree surgeons and turf specialists.

In a new report, the London School of Economics said farmers around the world have to produce more food in the next 50 years than they have in the last 10,000 combined.

With a worker shortfall already significant, a critical food shortage is a possibility for future generations.

Mrs Crawford was speaking after the RHS

Continued on page 20

NATURE AND NUTURE: Horticulture industry is desperate for new graduates and skilled people

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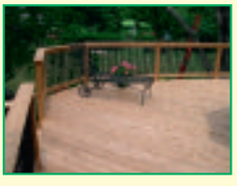

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'Migrants often have degrees and are very motivated – they're keeping industry going'

Continued from page 18

released its Horticulture Matters report, which found that the industry is "at crisis point" largely thanks to the poor perception of its importance in schools.

Commitment to bridging the green skills gap is not only necessary, the RHS said, it is urgent because it is threatening Britain's economy, environment and food security.

It needs to be "embedded" in schools' national curriculum to encourage young people to further study the subject in higher education and to consider it as a career, the organisation said.

At East Malling Research, staff study the science of horticulture.

Chief executive Professor Peter Gregory told KoS: "Horticulture is now a high-tech industry, demanding a skilled workforce with access to a range of cutting-edge technologies.

"Over the past 100 years, plant sciences have combined to generate a ten to 12-fold production increase of a crop such as apples. There is, however, a huge challenge ahead; we need to produce more food between 2000 and 2050, than we produced between 1500 and 2000 – but with little or no extra land available.

"From a research perspective this challenge will need to attract the broadest research and technology skills; from chemistry and physics to maths and IT – food production needs it all.

"There is a great wonder of horticulture, producing food for all and generating huge enjoyment in our garden and wider environment from those initial tiny seeds. That great wonder and the associated rewarding employment opportunities it presents, need conveying so that the perception of the industry can be steered towards a brighter future for everyone."

Hadlow's Pat Crawford says the attitude to growing foods could not be more different between the UK and eastern Europe – from where much of the county's horticultural workers now emerge.

She said: "The migrants often have degrees, many are very highly skilled, motivated, work extremely hard and are career-driven. To some extent they are keeping the industry going. This state of affairs can't continue. It can only be reversed if somehow we can make young people aware of the exceptional opportunities the industry offers."

Minister of state for agriculture and food, David Heath, addressed the RHS about their report on Tuesday evening.

A Defra spokesman said: "It's really important the horticultural industry is able to attract the right people to the sector. Through our Future of Farming initiative we are working with the industry to help more talented, entrepreneurial young people build careers across the agriculture sector, including horticulture."

The RHS added: "The minister's talk was positive. He did recognise this is an important initiative."

■ **What do you think of the situation? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk with your comments.**

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

Running from May 21-25, the RHS Chelsea Flower Show is not only the most prestigious event of its kind, but also the most high profile.

Afforded prime time TV coverage on the BBC, it has royal patronage and acts as a calling card for the finest horticultural talents in the UK.

While no longer the biggest show – it has been surpassed by the RHS Hampton Court Show – it continues to attract visitors from across the world to the grounds of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea.

FOOD

Producers impress at Commons showcase

PRIME Minister David Cameron has paid tribute to Kent's "fantastically diverse" agricultural sector, as the best of our county's producers showcased their wares at Parliament.

The Taste of Kent day at Westminster, organised by Kent MPs, saw local producers, and organisations Visit Kent and Produced in Kent, present food and drink, ranging from honey, cheese, jam and chutney to cider, ale, wine and apple juice.

Mr Cameron, who is currently on overseas business, admitted he was disappointed on missing out on the delicious products: "I was particularly looking forward to sampling the honey brought to London by the Dartford Beekeepers, which I'm told is truly delicious.

"I am sure the event offered an opportunity to celebrate Kent's fantastically diverse agricultural sector and will, I hope, promote the county's producers as they continue to flourish."

COURT

Burglar took a bath

A BRAZEN burglar who took a bath and cooked some food in his victim's house has been jailed for almost four years.

Andrew Cushman, 40, of no fixed abode, also left hypodermic needles around the house in Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, including one in a child's cot after hiding in a neighbour's shed, Maidstone Crown Court heard.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Maritime heritage of a land-locked town

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FIRST time visitors to Tenterden must wonder why the town has the image of a ship on its crest and is recognised as one of the Cinque Ports.

The Kent coast is not obvious anywhere on the horizon and the place has many other charms, such as a fine church, beautiful Wealden landscapes and a steam railway.

But in medieval times, the town was an important international trading port and a centre for the construction of some of the largest vessels of the day.

For centuries, prior to a series of great storms during the 14-1500s, the town was connected to the sea via the navigable River Rother, with its main port on the site of the present day village of Smallhythe. And that was how the town first became prosperous.

In 1331, Edward III decided he no longer wanted wool to be exported as it was an important source of taxable revenue.

Instead, he ordered that weavers and dyers from Flanders be brought to England to teach his subjects how to make their own garments.

Sheep were plentiful across the Weald, so it was a ready made centre for the new trade.

And unlike other settlements in the area, Tenterden had access to the sea via the wide river which ran through much of what is now Romney Marsh.

So it became a centre for the trade, bringing prosperity and jobs which continued for the next 300 years. The ancient Woolpack Inn in the town centre stands as a memorial to those times of plenty.

KEY PORT: Dry land has not always surrounded Tenterden

Another port, Reading Street, was also established and both initially shipped timber from the Wealden forest for ship construction elsewhere.

Both ports then made use of wood from the forests of the Weald and ship-building became another major trade in the area – further increasing the town's importance.

Vessels of up to 400-tons were constructed – very large for the day and capable of carrying 250 people – important when it came to waging cross-Channel war.

Tenterden's importance was recognised when the Cinque Port of Rye found itself unable to fulfil its obligations to supply its quota of ships and men for the Crown's use and turned to the town for help.

In 1449, Henry VI granted to Tenterden "its charter of incorporation as a limb or member of Rye in the Confederation of the Cinque Ports".

This meant it had a large amount of autonomy, could be represented at royal coronations and be exempt from much national taxation.

But the gradual silting up of the river meant its use by larger vessels was decreasing and together with changes in how garments were produced, the wool trade slackened off.

The formation of a standing Royal Navy meant the Cinque Ports' usefulness was in decline as well.

But Tenterden was – and remains – the pre-eminent town of the Weald, even though a prominent historian was a little disparaging.

According to Edward Hasted in his 1798 work The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent Volume Seven: "The parish of Tenterden lies too near the marshes to be either healthy or pleasant, excepting that part where the town is situated near the northern boundaries of it, on what may be called for this country, high ground; it is about five miles across each way."

But even after the wool trade and shipbuilding had all but ceased, the town had two other important contributions to maritime heritage to give.

Both concerned the 12th century Church of St Mildred. From its tower, a beacon warned of the approach of the Spanish Armada in 1588 and a couple of hundred years later Admiral Lord Nelson's daughter, Horatia, married the vicar.

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News

EVENT

Town left grasping at thin air as funding grounds airshow

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE much-anticipated Folkestone Airshow has been cancelled – dealing a huge blow to the local economy and disappointing thousands of aviation fans.

The event was set to bring up to 100,000 people to the town in June and generate millions in revenue for businesses.

But it was shot down after failing to secure financial support, despite "intense" last-gasp efforts to secure guaranteed pre-event funding.

Due to roll-out over three days, with the likes of the Red Arrows and Battle of Britain aircraft such as Spitfires and Hurricanes set to roar overhead on the Saturday, June 8, the event, dubbed Fly Folkestone, was organised by Folkestone Town Centre Management Ltd (FTCM).

Airshow project manager, Yvonne Holder, said because the event was free most of the revenue needed to meet up-front costs depended on getting in money from sponsorships, donations and fund-raising activities.

She said: "In the end, lack of financial support for the Fly Folkestone fund-raising campaign meant FTCM, a not-for-profit organisation, had to decide the funds available were not sufficient; time to seek new sources of income was too short; and the financial risks of proceeding with the event, therefore, were too great.

"Also, as a consequence of the financial situation, we ran into timetable difficulties in the preparation of an event management plan which would meet the requirements of the Shepway Advisory Group, a partnership of agencies concerned with public safety issues whose approval was necessary in order to obtain the Civil Aviation Authority licence for flying displays.

"After much consultation, we agreed that we would not be able to meet the deadline to enable complete plans to be assessed.

"The decision to call the show off was taken with immense regret. We know it will disappoint thousands of people.

"A terrific amount of work has gone into the planning of the event programme and we would like to thank companies and organisations which have contributed, and also the many volunteers and members of the public who have given us fantastic support.

"We have received a great many messages expressing the hope that ways and means can be found to continue the Folkestone Airshow, and we are examining the suggestion that financial supporters be asked to carry forward their commitment so that an event with guaranteed up-front funding conditions can be staged – possibly, next year."

Chris Kirkham, manager of Discover Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh, added: "The cancellation of this high-profile crowd-puller is hugely disappointing, but the rest of Shepway's summer-long line-up of festivals and events will ensure that visitors and residents enjoy plenty of great entertainment."

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CINEMA

We reveal the top 10 highest-grossing movies of

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

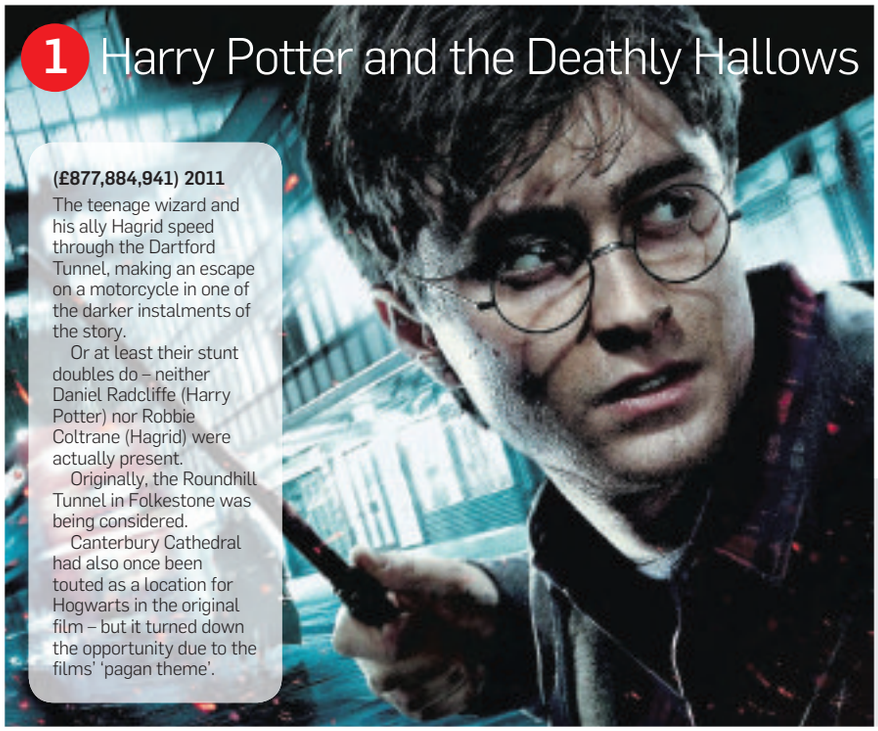
FROM Les Misérables to Sherlock Holmes, Harry Potter to the Pirates of the Caribbean, the county has become no stranger to playing a key role on the silver screen of some of the world's highest grossing blockbusters.

And with news this week that the new Star Wars movie will be filmed in the UK – and studio bosses having already scoped out a possible location in Kent – there's no sign of any slowdown.

Mike Hill, Kent County Council's cabinet member for community services, said: "The film industry brings enormous benefits to Kent, not just from the revenue it generates directly when crews are on location but also from the opportunity it gives to show off our county to the world at large."

The KCC-funded Kent Film Office promotes the various urban, industrial and countryside locations as major film and television settings.

With Brad Pitt's upcoming zombie movie World War Z shooting in Sandwich, and the new Muppets movie the latest film to include scenes recorded at Chatham dockyard, we take a look at the top 10 highest grossing films to have shot scenes in the county.



1 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

(£877,884,941) 2011

The teenage wizard and his ally Hagrid speed through the Dartford Tunnel, making an escape on a motorcycle in one of the darker instalments of the story.

Or at least their stunt doubles do – neither Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter) nor Robbie Coltrane (Hagrid) were actually present.

Originally, the Roundhill Tunnel in Folkestone was being considered.

Canterbury Cathedral had also once been touted as a location for Hogwarts in the original film – but it turned down the opportunity due to the films' 'pagan theme'.

2 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides

(£683,109,177) 2011

Knole Park, Sevenoaks provided the setting for a gallows scene which saw an escape by Johnny Depp's Captain Jack Sparrow in the latest instalment of the swashbuckling saga. The house also appeared in Burke and Hare, featuring Simon Pegg, as a market setting.

3 Sherlock Holmes/Game of Shadows

(£342,923,920 and £356,995,895) 2009&11

The quayside at Chatham Historic Dockyard doubled as the London docks in the first of Guy Richie's two detective movies; scenes included a half-finished ocean liner breaking free from its restraints while Stephen Fry filmed there for the sequel. Knole House provided a backdrop for a scene starring Moriarty, also in the second film.

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all time, which were filmed in Kent

4 Les Misérables

(£286,481,200) 2012

Russell Crowe was involved in filming scenes including a fight at Chatham Dockyard's Tarred Yarn Store. The cast and crew spent 11 days in total at the location – the longest period of any outside filming for this hugely popular movie version of the hit musical. Its DVD release was this week.

5 The Mummy

(£272,269,740) 1999

This fantasy adventure saw the dockyard at Chatham turn into Giza Port on the River Nile. The set was 600 feet in length and included a steam train, a traction engine, cranes, a two-horse carriage, horse-drawn carts, horses and grooms and a market.

6 The Golden Compass

(£243,627,718) 2007

Another fantasy adventure came to the county when Lyra Belacqua, played by young actress Dakota Blue Richards, arrived in an alternative universe Norwegian port filled with computer generated images. The youngster is actually in the covered slips and the mast house areas of Chatham dockyard.

7 The World is Not Enough

(£236,819,305) 1999

James Bond, played by Pierce Brosnan, is in a high-speed boat chase filmed along the waterfront of Chatham dockyard. Sequences include the boat flying across a road and through an archway.

8 Johnny English I and II

(£105,117,630 and £105,440,201) 2005&11

The Bond-style parody saw Rowan Atkinson in action along the A2 carriageway and Jubilee Way in Dover following a bomb plot. In the sequel, the A299 from Faversham to Ramsgate was used to film a high speed car chase. Ramsgate itself also featured.

9 The Other Boleyn Girl

(£50,863,160) 2008

Eric Bana was King Henry VIII for a tale of Tudor romance and intrigue with Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson at both Dover Castle and Knole House. A large number of extras from east Kent were recruited for the crowd scenes filmed in Dover.

10 The Boat That Rocked

(£23,790,279) 2009

Director Richard Curtis was at the helm of this tale of pirate radio which was mainly filmed either in the studio or at sea but did have some sequences shot at Squerryes Court, a 17th century manor home in Westerham.

■ **Monetary amounts are for world-wide box office receipts.**

STAR WARS

The top ten could soon have a serious rival. A quarry near Bluewater is being hotly tipped as the setting for fight sequences for the JJ Abrams-directed Star Wars Episode VII, filming of which is due to start this summer. So far, the franchise set in a galaxy, far, far away has grossed £2.2bn at the box office.

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The Government is this year increasing to 17 the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training or employment with training.

From 2015 they will need to stay on until their 18th birthday. It's called Raising the Participation Age (RPA).

Young people currently in Year 11 and below are affected.

Raising the participation age (RPA) does not mean young people must stay in school; they will able to choose one of the following options post-16:

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OPINION

Help your health service

As missed GP appointments cost the NHS millions in wasted hours, **Dr Bhaskar Bora** urges patients to turn up or cancel

THE NHS is continually being told to improve its performance and patients can work alongside health professionals to make that happen.

The NHS is a unique organisation and just as the health service looks after us we, in turn, have to look after it.

The organisation faces a number of challenges, including tackling a growing population that is living longer and beset by increasingly complex health needs.

The decision to put GP-led clinical commissioning groups in charge of deciding how and where money is spent is a practical one and, I believe, will allow us to deliver more efficient services with improved quality.

I can, of course, only speak for my area but patients can help us achieve these outcomes in numerous ways.

To begin with patients with minor ailments and who visit A&E need to ask themselves: 'Is this the most appropriate service for me to use at this time? Or do I know of all the alternative NHS services available to me?'

The cumulative cost of misusing services like A&E runs into tens of millions of pounds every year. It is money we can ill afford to waste.

A good example is missed GP and hospital appointments.

At first glance, it is a matter of consideration to ring up and say you can't make an appointment so that another patient can be given that time slot, but the underlying cost is far greater.

I have lost count of the number of times patients have not shown up for appointments and not bothered to ring and cancel. There really is no excuse when appointments are so dear and so many other people are waiting for them.

This practice denies other genuinely sick patients an appointment, wastes the time of already hard-pressed doctors and nurses as well as contributing to longer waiting times for appointments.

It's estimated that there are more than 15 million missed GP appointments every year in the UK. This equals 25 million lost hours a year.

Something of greater personal concern is the number of people putting off or not attending 'two week' cancer wait appointments.

These fast-track appointments are for patients who need urgent assessment and investigation for suspected cancers. These appointments are both crucial and expensive for the NHS.

Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to early diagnosis of conditions like cancer.

There are more than 15 million missed GP slots every year

In short, the quicker we know there is a problem, the better the chance of nipping it in the bud.

Men with their stoical approach to health are the worst sufferers.

If your body is telling you something isn't right then it isn't right and it's time to see your GP, if only for peace of mind.

If your GP refers you to hospital for a second opinion then please take that seriously and do not defer the appointment

If, for whatever reason, you can't attend then you can help someone else by calling up the hospital to cancel.

This will, at least, ensure that your appointment slot is available to someone who may be in greater need.

■ Dr Bhaskar Bora is chair of NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group.

KOS COMMENT

Hitting a balance amid county decision makers

THERE is no quick-fire solution to ensuring our ever-evolving towns and villages are represented in the corridors of power by those who resemble those who elect them.

Yet the apparent discrepancy between men and women shows no sign of shortening on a local level – and that should concern us all.

It is essential more people engage in their local communities and seek to bring change for the benefit of the many. And if that means taking a stand as a local councillor then that must be encouraged – particularly if they are of a sex or ethnic group currently under represented. In our diverse and vibrant communities we need equality to make democracy represent us all.

Remembering heroes

WHETHER it was from the history books or the silver screen, few who have encountered the remarkable tale of the Dambusters can fail to be struck by the bravery of the men involved or the impact the raid had.

It may be 70 years ago, but we should ensure their heroics continue to live on.

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Defections a waste of time

SO rumours are rife some Ukip members of Kent County Council might defect to the Conservatives, and vice versa.

This speaks loudly of bloated egos and careerist politicians who hold both the electorate and party labels in contempt.

Alas, a close analysis of recent press statements shows that both parties have an unhealthy obsession with opposing Europe, immigration and gay marriage.

I therefore won't hold my breath at a Tory/Ukip coalition at County Hall sorting out the roads and pavements, fixing the potholes, and improving school standards and social services in Kent.

Dr Alan Bullion, Tunbridge Wells

MP is missing the real point

YOU reported on May 5 that a new survey by Mark Reckless, MP for Rochester, shows 95 per cent of the local population is against the idea of an estuary airport.

I've no doubt it is, but Mr Reckless then suggested "helping Kent residents" by building a Crossrail spur line from Stratford to Stansted, at a cost of £3 billion.

He has other suggestions, such as improving transport to Birmingham Airport(!), involving even greater sums of money.

Yet nowhere does he mention the advantages of Manston Airport.

In fact, for his constituents in Rochester, it is quicker by train to reach Manston than it is to reach either Gatwick or Heathrow.

In addition, the campaign group Why Not Manston? has calculated it would cost a mere £15 million, not thousands of millions, to bring high-speed trains, which already stop at Ramsgate, into a new terminal at Manston.

This would mean just an hour to reach Manston from Rochester, compared with nearly one and a half hours to reach any of the London airports.

Mr Reckless' latest article (May 12) spent the whole time rejecting an estuary airport – as we all do – but suggests no positive alternative.

Instead, he merely remarks that "there are other far more realistic solutions for increasing airport capacity".

What are they? Does he really regard expenditure of thousands of millions of pounds to take Kentish residents up to Stansted as "far more realistic"? Or does he finally admit Manston is at least part of the solution?

Now that KLM is offering daily flights from Manston to more than 130 destinations via Amsterdam, the advantages of Manston seem overwhelming, but Mr Reckless' failure to mention this airport is very curious.

Nicholas Reed, chairman, Why Not Manston?

Crossing that great divide

I SUPPORT the view inferred by Dartford councillor Jeremy Kite in your article about a third Thames crossing.

I have said for many years, before an additional crossing was being talked about, that a crossing from Sheppey would provide enormous regeneration opportunities for the island; an area not exactly awash with job opportunities.

Yes, it would be very expensive. But we are talking about infrastructure to serve the next century, not looking for a fix that is the right one because it's a cheaper one.

The Channel Tunnel was said to be far too expensive to build; then someone came along with the political will and it happened.

All we need now is that same strong, brave political will.

David Turner, Gravesend

Exportation of man's greed

WITH reference to live animal exports, the system all comes down to greed, as usual with mankind.

If children were treated like this everyone would be up in arms.

Put all the politicians in a truck and send them over to Europe; that would do us all the world of good.

Derek Cooper, Hythe

Slow down and just listen

YOUR reader Mr Hudson-Goole queries my comment that I "judge people by their actions and not their words".

I thought this would be self-explanatory; people often give the answer which they think is expected, rather than what they actually believe or intend practising themselves.

There is too much emphasis on speed limits, when we should be educating people to drive at appropriate speeds for prevailing conditions, hence my objection to blanket 20mph limits.

Once 20mph speed limits were the prerogative of lefty London councils; now they have evolved into mainstream policy of even the Conservatives.

It started with compulsory 20mph speed limits outside schools, yet do we employ a lollipop person 24 hours a day, seven days a week? So I question the political motives behind such demands.

As recent history proves, what started out as a few isolated schemes has now developed into a nationwide system, with the Government now giving a free hand to councils (under localism) to have widespread schemes and have stated longer journey times for drivers are of no consequence.

Many groups wish to deny us mobility and by the 'domino effect' of legislation, political agendas are met.

Often in partnership with other anti-car groups, militant cycling organisations have been the most vehement in demanding 20mph towns and now the battle's won, are moving on to their next 'hate' campaign.

That is for 'strict liability' laws where the licence holder is automatically to blame for any vehicle/cyclist accident; so be careful for what you wish for.

If we have tens of millions of normal citizens breaking the law every day, would that not suggest that those laws are wrong? Increasing enforcement or lowering speed limits even further is not helping.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

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LISA blonde, blue eyes, looking for male, 42-54 for fun and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404877**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

APRIL, lovely 21yrs old curvy girl seeks mature male to nurture me in every way, looks unimportant, must be experienced. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 403931**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTM lady. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093**

DISCREET kind man sought by married lady, must be discreet and reliable as am I. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 355785**

LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773**

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

FEMALE young 60, petite, outgoing, sociable, looking for someone special to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403423**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

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47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

SHAY 39 looking for fun loving male to brighten up my world! There must be someone out there prepared to take on a feisty attractive professional with OHAC, money in the bank and a great body! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403341**

JACQUELINE widow, 82, easy-going, not ugly or neurotic, good listener, caring, loyal, seeks gent, 60-80 for conversation, company and outings. Sevenoaks, car driver. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403397**

SHARON 37yr old size 10 attractive feminine blonde, divorced with OHAC, seeks nice male who like me is fed up with being on their own. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403351**

KATHY genuine good/young looking lonely female, fit with good figure, seeking man to fall in love with, enjoy adult companionship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403349**

VICKY petite size 16, attractive, caring, genuine and very much single, likes varied interests, WLTM kind genuine N/S male 40-55yrs for dates hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403343**

LOUISE blue eyed pretty brunette, size 12, OHAC, professional, enjoys good conversation, looking for someone to make me happy again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403335**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

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FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well built female for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971**

ACTIVE 60's semi-retired man, OHAC, GSOH, enjoys theatre, dancing, singing, amateur dramatics, coast, gardening etc., WLTM n/s female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404671**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537**

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

TONY 50, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033**

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887**

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729**

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641**

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402497**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

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BI guy, CD, 57, OHAC, seeking similar for mutual fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404907**

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

BI male, senior, clean shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402393**

DAVID 66, retired, fit, looking for man, 50-75 for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402249**

STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

Friendship

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

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I like talking to new ppl!!! i like funny guyz sum1 tht can hold a gud covo...**Text IDA to 60109**

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Cycle of beauty

Jack Thurston shares the truth that anyone – MANILS included – can get on a bike and discover great places

By **GREG MILES**

CYCLING stars such as Sir Bradley Wiggins and Sir Chris Hoy have undoubtedly had a huge impact on the next generation of two-wheeled stars, with the Olympics and the Tour de France to aspire to, but what about those who prefer a leisurely pedal around our county's lost lanes?

One man who has taken that into consideration is journalist and broadcaster Jack Thurston, who has compiled what he considers the top relaxing cycle rides through the backwaters of Kent.

Not simply a map, his book – Lost Lanes: Short Jaunts And Epic Excursions By Bike In Southern England – brings to life the sights, sounds and watering holes along six routes through the countryside, taking in the joys of the Darent Valley, the hills of Sevenoaks and the Crab and Winkle Way between Whitstable and Canterbury.

'The challenge was to find routes that have amazing views, but routes you can do'

It is a passion that started out of a desire to get away from the football pitch at school and has ended, at least with this project, with a guide to 36 rides throughout Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the Thames Valley, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Suffolk and London.

"I have always enjoyed cycling as a way of escaping from the city," said the London-dweller. "I started a cycling club at school so I could get out of games and running around a football pitch.

"A lot of people have been scared away from cycling because of the busy roads. The challenge of the book was to find routes that have all these amazing views, but routes that you can do.

"It's a great way to travel. In a car you're closed off from everything and you can't pay attention. If there's a beautiful view, in a car it's hard to stop. On a bike you get on and off.

Thurston, 40, is something of an authority on cycling, having put the world to rights on the subject in his slot on The Bike Show on south London radio station ResonanceFM since 2004. He also knows the top spots in Kent, having biked into the county from his home in south London in decades gone by.

"It's such an amazing county – it has such variety that I could have put another six routes in the book."

On writing the book, he said: "A publisher approached me and said I should consider putting together a list of my favourite routes, so I did.

"I hope it informs and inspires people. It's really nice to get lost in the countryside, not literally lost, but seeing amazing places and spending time with friends or stopping for a pub lunch."

Having seen the mountain-bike boom of the 1980s, and the subsequent interest in road-bikes surge since the Olympics, the latest fad is MANIL, translated to mean man in lycra.

"It's probably the middle-aged man in lycra at the moment," he said. "A lot of cycling clubs have had a big influx of older people, maybe people who did a bit of sports at school and have spread out in their 20s and think they're a bit tubby and have joined a club after seeing Bradley Wiggins.

"I want to present cycle-touring as something anyone with a bike can do. You don't have to have to be super-fit, or have lots of gear, and you don't have to go to exotic places. There are enough amazing places within easy reach of anywhere in the UK.

'It's really nice to get lost in the countryside, not literally lost, but see amazing places'

"It's a myth that the countryside of the South East has been covered in concrete. There are thousands of miles of tranquil lanes and this makes it one of the very best places to ride a bike."

While there are a few potholes here and there, and the odd HGV to be wary of, the rides around the county are far safer than most would believe, unless you are next to a bed of nettles.

"I fell into a bed of nettles once," said Thurston. "That was because I was stopping to get a picture. I was straining for a better view and I put my foot on what I thought was a solid log to balance and I fell over."

■ **Lost Lanes, published by Wild Things Publishing, costs £14.99; see www.wildthingspublishing.com.**

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Singer awaits outcome of blues vote

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

BLUES artist Katie Bradley faces an anxious wait until the end of August to find out if she has won a top industry award.

The 35-year-old from Folkestone is on the final short-list for the British Blues Awards original song category with I Hear The Rain, which featured on her debut blues album She's Ready, released last year.

She was originally put forward by industry critics and was then voted through from the first short-list of 60 by the public, who she is hoping will now back her again to win the award.

"There are some very big names in there," she said. "I was quite surprised to be short-listed – there was a girl from Ireland and another from Scotland who had the backing of their whole countries. I thought I had no chance.

The album signalled a change of direction, she said: "I have a passion for blues – I decided to focus on one genre and see how far I could go.

"I have been in lots of local bands and travelled all over the world. Everywhere I go I pick up on music."

The album is live and features Paul Jobson on keyboard, Sam Kelly on drums and virtuoso guitarist Dudley Ross in support.

Bradley's singing career has included supporting, performing and recording credits with musicians such as Suzanne Vega, Hamish Stuart (Average White Band), Dana Gillespie, Ben Mills (X Factor) and blues legend Luther Allison. Away from music she is a ceramic artist and will be exhibiting some of her work at George's House Gallery in Folkestone in August – full details are yet to be announced.

Visit www.britishbluesawards.com – the vote closes on Sunday, June 30. The award will be presented on the Bulmers British Stage at the Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival in Colne, Lancashire, on Sunday, August 25.

Triple the laughs at comedy club

A TRIO of top comedians are headlining The Comedy Club at Ashford International this month.

Will Marsh, above, will host the evening, with Tony Hendrix followed by The Raymond and Mr Timpkins Revue at the venue on Friday, May 31.

Marsh has featured on The One Show for Comic Relief, while Hendrix has twice been voted the best Jamaican comedian.

Music act The Raymond and Mr Timpkins Revue combine acoustic guitar and stylophone to comic effect.

Tickets including a two-course meal are priced at £23, or £21 for comedy-club members, and just £16 for the comedy night only.

Doors open at 7pm, with the show starting at 9pm. For tickets, visit www.thecomedyclub.co.uk or phone 01233 219988.

History comes to life as castle hosts picnic

A PICNIC with a difference is being held at Hever Castle.

Families are being encouraged to get into the spirit of things at the Big Edwardian Picnic over the bank-holiday weekend of May 25-27.

Prizes are up for grabs for the best-dressed Edwardian boy and girl on each day, while visitors can get involved in an interactive play about what life was like as a servant in the house in which Lord Astor lived. There is also a Punch and Judy show and coconut shy.

This year marks 110 years since the multi-millionaire William Waldorf Astor bought and restored the castle to its former glory, and 50 years since his grandson Gavin opened its doors to the public.

A new interactive exhibition in the castle's Astor Suite brings the fascinating Upstairs Downstairs years to life. Letters and photographs tell of the castle's restoration and creation of the magnificent gardens.

Visitors can use everyday objects such as old-fashioned telephones and radios to listen to interviews with former below-stairs staff and also see the Astor family's rare archive collection of home movies.

The gardens open at 10.30am, with the castle opening at noon. Last admission is 5pm and final exit is 6pm. Tickets are priced at £15 for adults, £12.75 for seniors, £8.50 for children and £38.50 for a family ticket.

Call 01732 865224 or visit www.hevercastle.co.uk for more information.

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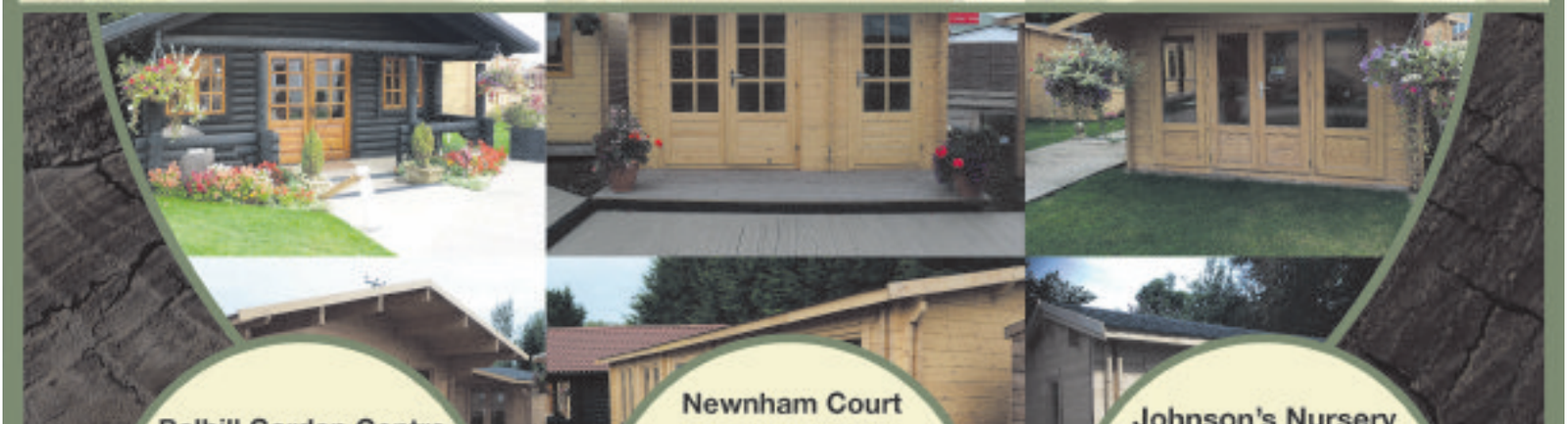

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Enjoy the magic of music with variety show performance

THE Ramsgate Operatic Society will be presenting the Magic Of The Musicals in its next show, being performed in Broadstairs.

The society's spring revue will pay homage to some of the biggest and best musicals in the 20th century, with hits from Mamma Mia, Les Miserables, Chicago and Evita.

The show's concept was developed by member Carol Evans, who said: "I wanted a show that summed up the society's 51 years with old

favourites and also to perform a selection from shows that we might never do."

The show takes place from Wednesday to Sunday, May 29-June 2, at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, Memorial Hall, Hilderstone.

The shows from Wednesday to Friday start at 7.30pm, with the Saturday and Sunday performances beginning at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £8 in advance or £10 on the door and there is unreserved table seating.

Seats are bookable in advance from the box office on 0845 2626263.

Learn the tricks of the trade from West End entertainers

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A NEW theatre workshop is bringing the West End experience to Whitstable for aspiring young performers.

WestEnd World, which has been set up by Helen Patching and Ben Harlow, will be passing on all the tricks of the trade, the pair having worked on such big productions as Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Joseph and Mamma Mia during a combined 25 years in show business.

Open to youngsters aged seven to 15, the workshop takes place over five days, covering West End musicals and offering the chance to take part in a performance on the final day in front of friends and family.

"If your interest is in performing arts, this really will be a fantastic opportunity to be expertly guided by original cast members and current musical directors of the West End and UK touring productions," said Harlow.

Patching, who trained at Deborah Capon College in Whitstable before being awarded a scholarship to Doreen Bird College, London, said: "The workshop will not only be packed full of master classes in acting, singing and dancing but also sessions in prop design and creation, and stage make-up tuition, so there really will be something for everyone, ensuring bags of fun and smiles all round.

"All you need is enthusiasm for performing.

Whether it's acting, singing or dancing you enjoy, we want people who want to learn more and gain confidence, too.

"To get the best out of each and every student we limit the total number in attendance to 35. We believe in delivering a quality workshop where each student can have individual attention as well as in a group."

Spaces are limited, with an early-bird booking deal available until Friday, May 31.

The workshop will take place at St Andrew's Church Hall, Grimshill Road, Whitstable, from Tuesday to Saturday, August 6-10, from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

For more information, you can visit www.westend-world.co.uk or phone 07543 054041.

FAB FOUR

Eastbridge Hospital, Canterbury
Saturday to Friday, May 18-24
Phone: 07790543744
Webstite: www.canterburyrivertours.co.uk
River art: Enjoy an exhibition of river-themed art by students from the King's School to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Canterbury Historic River Tours.

Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs
Sunday, May 26
Phone: 0845 2626 263
Website: sarahthorne.blogspot.co.uk
Thanet Light Orchestra: A mix of popular concerto classics and lighter pieces including works by Eric Coates will be performed. The show starts at 3pm. Tickets £8.

Bigbury Camp, Harbledown
Monday, May 27, 10am-4pm
Phone: 01227 719506
Website: www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk
Bigbury Revealed: Fans of all things Roman can enjoy a day of guided walks, re-enactments and family activities at Bigbury Camp's recently-restored Iron Age hill fort.

Penshurst Place and Gardens
Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26
Phone: 01892 870307
Website: www.thebushcraftcompany.co.uk
Bushcraft adventure: Find out about traditional bushcraft skills and how to have the ultimate wilderness experience during two days of activities in Penshurst.

International performers are ready to make a song and dance about music

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE Equator Festival is gearing up for its busiest two months of activities, with salsa, African dance and a choir competition all taking place in the county.

The festival, which brings together national and international dance and music, has five events taking place around the county throughout June and July, including a choir competition that is open to amateur groups.

First up is traditional African music from Kasai Masai, who will be performing at The Stag arts centre in Sevenoaks on Saturday, June 8. They will blend their equatorial sound with an urban twist to form energetic dance rhythms. The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £12; to book, phone 01732 450175 or visit www.equatorfestival.com.

Next, Atongo Zimba from Ghana will be playing the koliko, a two-stringed calabash lute, which led to stardom back in Africa when he moved to Nigeria and opened for legendary act Fela Kuti. He is at St Mary's Church in Ashford town centre on Friday, June 21, starting at 7.30pm. And on Saturday, June 22, he is playing at Chatham's Brook Theatre at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £12.

Then Friday, July 19, sees ShivaNova and Adrian Varela's Tango group deliver their dance sounds at St Mary's Church in Ashford. His show starts at 7.30pm, with tickets priced at £12.

On Saturday, July 27, at 7.30pm Coco Express will perform their Latin and salsa music at The Brook Theatre in Chatham from 7.30pm.

For tickets to the shows in Chatham, visit www.medwayticketslive.co.uk or phone 01634 338338. Visit www.equatorfestival.com for tickets to shows in Ashford.

To enter the choir competition, send an application before the deadline of Saturday, June 1, including the name of your school, address and contact name, telephone, email address, size and age range of choir and a list of three songs.

The choir must have a minimum of 12 singers and be available to perform at the finalists' concert on Friday, July 5, at St Mary's Church, Ashford, at 7pm.

Applicants need to submit an application form with a list of three songs, one of which must be from another country or culture. Duration of performance for each choir will be not longer than 15 minutes.

Entries will be judged by musicians from around the country, including composer Paul Patterson.

The postal address to send the entry is: Equator Choir Competition, c/o ShivaNova, Peregrine, Grange Road, St Michaels, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6TJ. Alternatively, email admin@shivanova.co.uk to enter.

Dodgy will lead the way at Create festival

BRITPOP group Dodgy are headlining the Create Music Festival in Ashford this summer.

The 90s band, famed for hits such as Staying Out For The Summer and Good Enough, will join an array of local talent at the free one-day festival on Sunday, July 28.

Ashford Borough Council arts and cultural industries manager and Create organiser Chris Dixon said: "This is a real coup for Create."

Another Britpop icon, Charlatans frontman Tim Burgess, will be opening the festival weekend with a one-off show at St Mary's Church in the town centre on Friday, July 26.

The festival, organised by the council and expected to attract 12,000 visitors, includes four stages, food, a bar and family entertainment.

Lunch date with singer

A SINGER who has performed with such names as Elvis Costello and Sir Bob Geldof will be at the 144Club in Rochester this month.

Sumudu will be appearing with her full band, including Courtney Pine's bass-player Larry Bartley, award-winning pianist Jonathan Gee, saxophonist Tracey Mendham and percussionist Roan Kearsey-Lawson on Sunday, May 26.

Sumudu is a versatile talent in jazz, pop, soul and acoustic music and has just written her debut album Waiting For You.

Tickets, which include roast lunch and music, are priced at £26 for two courses or £30 for three. Call 01634 365453 or see www.144club.co.uk for details. The show starts at 1.15pm.

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Dining experience is pearl in the shell of bustling harbour

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

DESPITE its high-profile setting, it is sometimes easy to overlook the Crab & Winkle restaurant.

Perched above the ever-bustling fish market and just yards from the cold waters of the North Sea that lap gently at the steep walls of the working harbour, failure to cast your eyes up as you stroll along means you could easily overlook it.

Yet it offers perhaps the finest views of any eatery in Whitstable, and as the sun sets, casting long, golden shadows on a bright spring evening, there are few more glorious vistas as you peer out across the array of colourful little fishing boats and to the sea beyond.

Over the years it has changed hands a number of times, all of which have been reflected in the quality of the food and the all-important value for money. Sometimes it has hit the heights; other times it can leave you feeling thoroughly disappointed.

The good news, however, is that it is currently enjoying a positive period – essential, given its prime position and ahead of what will no doubt be another busy summer season.

Its menu is, as you would imagine, inspired by the fresh fish its chefs can access just yards from its kitchens. Authenticity here is not an issue. And with an ever-changing daily specials board,

it takes advantage of being able to capitalise on the catch of the day.

Its décor is modern, its waitresses attentive and friendly.

In short, if the food is good, then this is a serious contender in a town positively awash right now with high-quality restaurants.

Certainly, the starters suggest all is going to be well here. I opted for the pan-seared scallops on a bed of spinach with chorizo and black pudding. The soft, subtle taste of the shellfish was remarkably well complemented by the spicy zing of the chorizo and low power of the black pudding.

It seemed rude not to avail myself of the fish-market platter as a main course. There are precious few significantly different dishes being served up today, so the option of such a smorgasbord of freshly-harvested shellfish was simply too much for me to resist.

It was certainly not for the faint-hearted. There were whelks and winkles, cockles and roll-mops, deep-fried battered oysters, a hunk of salmon, dressed crab, two fresh oysters and more. Looking out over the sea and boats, it was a dish you struggled to argue with. Or indeed complete. Granted, the whelks (served in their shells) were not perhaps as sublime as some, but they are temperamental beasts at the best of times.

My partner opted for mussels and chips – a classic but one that needs careful handling. The meat was plump and moist and just how it should be served.

By the time we'd treated ourselves to dessert (profiteroles – nice to look at but a little tasteless, ditto the 'chocolate box') and wine, the final bill was just over £80. The experience? Excellent.

Chris Thomson

■ **Crab & Winkle**
South Quay, The Harbour, Whitstable
CT5 1AB (phone 01227 779377)

Caveman Brewery is getting back to basics

THE George and Dragon in Swanscombe has been named Darenth Valley CAMRA Pub of the Year thanks to its locally-brewed ales.

One of those local groups is Dartford's Caveman Brewery, named after the 1935 discovery of 400,000-year-old bone fragments in Barnfield Pit, Swanscombe. These were the oldest remains found in Europe.

Set up by business partners Nick Byram and James Hayward, Caveman Brewery is supplying three ales to the local hostelries, including the Megalithic, a 5.9 per cent American-style IPA; Mesolithic, a 4.5 per cent pale ale; and Prehistoric Amber, a 4.6 per cent pale ale with amber malt.

The Oxford chef heads up café supper club

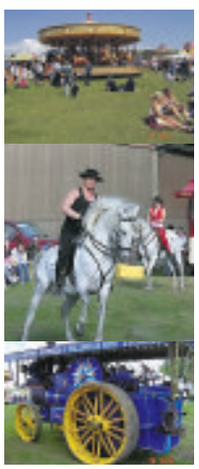
FORT'S Café in Margate is hosting a supper-club evening presented by guest chef Rob Cooper.

Now head chef at The Oxford in Whitstable, Cooper has worked at a number of top Kent restaurants, including The Goods Shed and , ABode in Canterbury, The Marquis at Alkham and The Granville in Lower Hardres.

He also ran the kitchens at Whitstable's Samphire for 18 months and The Farmhouse in Canterbury for almost four years.

On Friday, June 7, there will be a range of courses for £28 a head. To book, call Fort's Café on 01843 449786.

Visit fortscafe.co.uk to see the full menu.



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Forest festival branches out with half-term fun

By Dave Mairs
dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

A WEEK-LONG festival celebrating one of England's finest stretches of woodland begins at the end of the month.

The Blean Woodland Festival, which gets under way on Monday, May 27, and runs through to Sunday, June 2, is a celebration of Kent Wildlife Trust's five-year Heritage Lottery-funded Blean Project.

There will be events throughout the half-term week, and most of them are free.

Some of the highlights will be:

Bank Holiday Monday, May 27
Bigbury Revealed

Step back in time and experience Bigbury Camp as it was in 54BC.

Meet up with the Cantii tribe as they face the 25,000-strong Roman invasion. Discover the hidden side of the recently-restored Iron Age hill fort that is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and thought to be the site of Caesar's first battle.

There will be living-history displays, talks and guided walks around the earthworks led by archaeologists. Family activities, provided by the Canterbury Roman Museum as part of its Roman Week, include digging for treasure, creating Roman coins and milling flour with a quernstone.

Entry is free to the Bigbury nature reserve at Harbledown. The event runs from10am-4pm.

Bank Holiday Monday, May 27
Roman Ramble

A free family-friendly walk that includes a two-hour break at the Bigbury Revealed event. Join the Canterbury Ramblers Group for a 5.5-mile journey of discovery and exploration of the local landscape.

The walk starts from Canterbury Roman Museum to Bigbury hill fort; 10.30am-4pm.

Tuesday, May 28, to Saturday, June 1
Various events

A miscellany of guided walks and activities, including dawn chorus, nightjar encounter, woods in bloom, jewels of the woods, crepuscular encounter, moths by moonlight, woodcraft-skills day, wild art-and-crafts day and family cycle-ride (Crab & Winkle Way).

Sunday, June 2
The Fete of the Blean

Lots of outdoor activities, plus an indoor conference to round off the week.

There will be archery, local food and drink, Morris dancing, live music, wild art, clay-modelling, face-painting, woodcraft, willow-weaving, rag-rug-making, a falconry display and a series of talks.

TV presenter Kaddy Lee-Preston will make a guest appearance at the event, which runs from 10am-4pm at Canterbury Academy.

■ **For more on the festival, including programme, visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats/blean-woodland-festival. Alternatively, email info@kentwildlife.org.uk or phone 01227 719506.**

Want to help wildlife? Join the Friday club

IF you would like to get involved with countryside conservation, Samphire Hoe could be the place for you.

A Friday-morning volunteer group has been formed so that interested people can take part in conservation and site maintenance at the reserve between Folkestone and Dover.

In addition to helping out with a wholly worthwhile cause, you will see wildlife through the seasons and gain hands-on experience of conservation management.

Among the many rewards will be friendly company, the odd cup of tea, biscuits and the joy of working outside... but greatest of all will be the knowledge that you're helping to look after a top wildlife site.

Everyone is welcome and you can choose how much work you do.

Phone Steve Walker, of White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, on 01304 225649 for details.

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Goldfield casts off from role as Dover Harbour Board chief exec

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CHIEF executive of Dover Harbour Board, Bob Goldfield, has confirmed he is to quit the job at the end of this month after more than a decade at the helm.

Dr Goldfield, a keen supporter of the rejected bid to privatise the port, will be succeeded by current chief operating officer Tim Waggott, who becomes acting CEO.

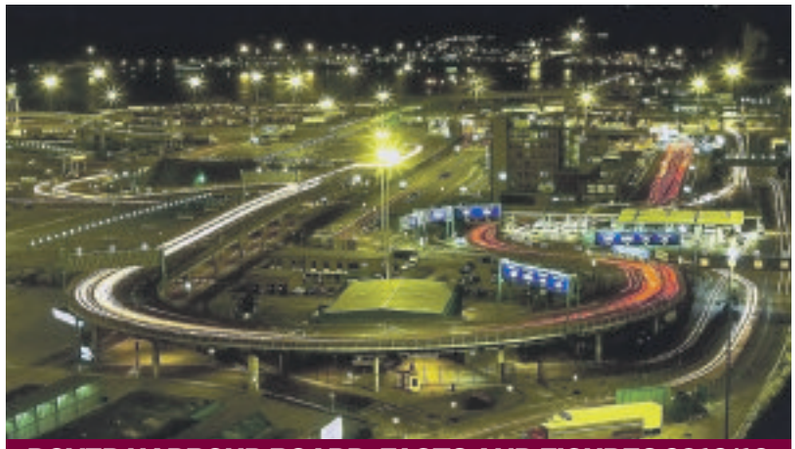
Dr Goldfield said: "For the past 11 years, I have had the honour to be the chief executive of the UK's premier port and certainly one of the world's busiest ports. Those 11 years have been, in turn, exciting, demanding and challenging.

"I would like to thank all of my colleagues for their help and support and to wish the board and all of the Port of Dover staff every future success".

Dover Harbour Board chairman, George Jenkins, said: "Bob Goldfield has devoted himself to this role, has delivered significant change and led the organisation into a more commercial, resilient and successful port operation."

Dr Goldfield spent 24 years with the RAF, working in Cyprus, Malta and the Middle East, serving as an engineer then air traffic control.

After completing a degree in air transport management at Cranfield University, he managed airports in Inverness, Hong Kong, Teeside and Shannon in Ireland, before moving to Dover to take over the running of the port.



DOVER HARBOUR BOARD: FACTS AND FIGURES 2012/13

Ferry traffic 2012
Passengers – **11,921,671**
Tourist cars – **2,400,471**
Coaches – **84,246**
Road haulage – **1,952,138**

Ferry traffic
Quarter 1, 2013 (2012 Q1 in brackets)
Passengers – **2,135,295** (2,004,993) UP 6.5%
Tourist cars – **345,738** (343,826) UP 0.6%
Coaches – **15,640** (13,739) UP 13.8%
Road haulage – **518,979** (486,192) UP 6.7%

Growth sparks 30 new roles at firm

ENERGY saving company, Mark Group, is undertaking a recruitment drive in Ashford following a period of consistent growth.

The company, which installs energy saving and energy generating measures, is seeking around 30 assessors and managers to carry out home energy efficiency assessments at properties around the region.

The roles, which will be based at the company's distribution centre in Ashford, will predominantly be in technical sales.

Chief executive Stephen Lamb said: "We have enjoyed a period of steady growth in recent years thanks to the unique relationships we enjoy with utility companies and retailers.

"These new recruits will help us grow our existing offer in the area through these channels and ensure we are fully prepared for the launch of our Green Deal assessment service later in the year."

Car business' drive in creating 150 jobs

MARDEN-BASED car business Automotive Distributors Ltd says it wants to recruit 50 new employees this year – and 100 more over the next three.

Currently employing more than 220 staff, the company estimates its workforce will expand to nearly 375 by 2016, as it continues to enter new international markets.

It is on target to turn over more than £75 million during 2013, with exports to 46 countries accounting for more than 50 per cent of sales.

Julie Pierce, director, said: "The last few years have seen very exciting growth in our business against the backdrop of tough economic times."

If you have a business story, then we would like to hear from you. Telephone the newsdesk on **01303 817000**, or alternatively email your story to **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**

Science park showcases county's trade opportunities in bid to attract French technology companies to move over here

THE attractions of the county as a business location are being promoted to companies in northern France by representatives of Kent Science Park (KSP) in Sittingbourne.

This latest move is specifically targeted at IT and technology businesses to showcase the opportunities available.

Attendees from the Normandy and Brittany areas have met with SMEs and attended networking events.

Richard Wheeler, head of business development at KSP, is the lead UK partner for Chain2, which is behind the initiative.

He said: "The whole point is to create stronger working links between the UK and France, and ultimately to encourage French businesses that Kent and the south east are ideally placed for them to access the UK market. Obviously this creates more jobs and brings more investment into the region.

ENTENTE CORDIAL: Kent Science Park offering incentives to attact firms

"We try to make it as easy as possible for companies to get started, which is why we offer a 'soft landing' service.

"This means French companies who are deciding whether or not to take a step into the UK can work out of Kent Science Park for a period while they get to know the market. We can also help to arrange a similar service for UK companies who are thinking of expanding into France."

Babs Knott, site administrator, added: "Companies can register on our new database of French and UK businesses, so, when businesses come over from France looking for suppliers or collaborators, we can help to make introductions.

"Our reach also extends across the English Channel, as we arrange trips for UK businesses to visit France to understand the market in order to help them gain a foothold."

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Performance league table success again for North West Kent College

COLLEGE: Cooking up success

NORTH West Kent College has been named one of the top performing in the country - and top of the pile in the county.

The figures from the Skills Funding Agency - the Government body which oversees and funds further education establishments - rank colleges in their success rate league tables.

For the academic year running 2011-12, North West Kent College, which has its two main campuses in Dartford and Gravesend, was ranked 12th best performing in England.

The tables cover the 224 general further education colleges nationally and all five in Kent.

College principal David Gleed said: "This is an absolutely superb achievement and a testament to the work that all our teaching and support staff put in day after day, with the vision of making North West Kent an outstanding college."

Getting a taster session of vocational courses

FIFTY Year 10 pupils from Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs recently got a taste of courses on offer at Canterbury College.

They took part in animal care, hairdressing, beauty therapy and engineering lectures - as well as getting the run down on other A-level courses on offer

Teacher Teresa Schers said: "It's really good for them to see alternative post-16 options available and plenty of students attended."

Is open week shorthand for profitable career?

AS PART of Adult Learners' Week, the Maidstone Pitman Training Centre is opening its doors to offer free advice and guidance.

The site in Fairmeadow is just one of a number of venues and organisations looking to capitalise on the nationwide week-long initiative, which runs from May 18-24.

Manager David Amos said: "Our open week last year during Adult Learners' Week was a huge success. We saw hundreds of people of all ages from all over the region."

READY: Principal insists all parties must combine to ensure next generation are best prepared for work

College chief: We must all boost student care

AS EDUCATIONAL chiefs prepare to up their game ahead of a major push to win students in the light of new regulations which insist youngsters remain in full-time learning until they are 18, the principal of one college has called for a more unified response to getting the next generation ready for work.

Phil Frier, principal of K College, the single biggest provider of further education in the county, has called for universities, colleges and employers to work together to ensure graduates are fit for purpose and packing the type of skills needed to get good jobs when they emerge into the real world.

Taking the opportunity to stake his college's claim to being the platform to become best prepared for employment – and dubbing it "the college for jobs" – he says he "understands the frustrations many have about the disparity between what new graduates want and what employers want".

He explained: "Many employers try to find the right new graduate once, and if they don't succeed with the perfect fit, they give up.

"None of us were perfect for our jobs when we first started out.

"We do need to emulate countries like Germany though and look at their success, specifically with apprenticeships.

"Employers need to set aside time to set up training courses and programmes and this does require a cultural change in the UK."

Mr Frier appealed to employers to remember what they themselves were like when they started their own working lives.

He explained: "Most of us learned certain things in education and then you learned on the job. We grew up and learned more than we ever did in school, college or university."

Many employers complain it is the so-called 'soft skills' that many new graduates lack, like how to behave in meetings.

Universities said they were noticing that new graduates were asking far more of them – particularly how many of their past students had found jobs afterwards.

With students now paying a high price for their university education, it is apparent educational establishments are being called on to deliver genuine value for money.

Mr Frier's comments come after an increasing number of business leaders expressed concerns that youngsters were not entering the world of work with the necessary skills needed – which, given the economic situation, is proving more and more of a concern.

K College, which has its headquarters in Tonbridge, has major changes on the horizon after it found itself facing huge financial problems last year.

Blamed on debts it inherited at the point of its creation – through the merger of South and West Kent colleges – it now seems destined to be broken up again by the start of the academic year in September 2014.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

Core subjects boost for college starters

MIDKENT College has unveiled an innovative service to boost English and maths skills - its bid to secure a lucrative share of the evolving student marketplace.

It effectively means GCSE students who miss out on achieving at least a grade C in English and maths will be given a second chance to top up their grades.

From this September all 16-19-year-olds who enrol on a course at the college will carry on studying the two core subjects.

It means some students will retake their GCSEs while others will take 'functional skills' lessons aimed at improving practical skills in English and maths.

The requirement forms part of the Government's new study programme, which is linked to a raising of the participation age for education and training to 17 this year and 18 by 2015. Students can stay at school or continue learning at a college.

Project co-ordinator Heather Gray said: "The education system is going through a period of major change at the moment.

"Those young people will be able to continue to study English and maths, alongside their main course, and develop those skills necessary to succeed in the world of work."

Downing Street visit allows Kent businessman to give PM Cameron his export advice

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AN ENTREPRENEUR from the county got to put the problems faced by small businesses directly to the Prime Minister David Cameron and business secretary Vince Cable recently.

Alex Probyn, from Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, runs Blends for Friends – a speciality tea business – and was part of a delegation invited to 10 Downing Street.

It provided real-life evidence of challenges facing British firms trading internationally.

He was representing the county at the meeting, which also included UK Trade and Investment director Nick Baird and the director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, John Longworth.

"There were 13 representatives from SMEs and we were each allowed to put forward one gem of information," said Mr Probyn, whose business is based on a farm.

"As one of the smaller businesses there, mine was at real grass-roots level.

"I don't have the resources to dedicate someone wholly to export issues, instead I rely on bodies such as UKTI and the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

"The chamber is great, but there is only so much it can do. What I would like to see is a one-stop shop for everything connected with exports.

"As a food company we are subject to more bureaucracy than most looking to foreign markets. We do business with a hotel chain which has properties in various countries, including China – a growing market. But we actually make a loss on our dealings there because of the time spent on paperwork."

Mr Probyn said he wanted "greater synergy" between export bodies in order to simplify the process of trade across the globe.

"I was impressed at Mr Cameron's response," he said. "He was supportive, truly listened and understood what I was saying."

Mr Probyn also enjoyed visiting Number 10.

"It's like a Tardis – much bigger inside than it looks like from the front door," he said.

"Before the meeting we found ourselves standing in front of the portraits of all the former prime ministers.

"I looked at the portrait behind me and saw I was face-to-face with Earl Grey, which I thought was rather fitting given my occupation. "

OPEN DOORS: Mr Probyn, who runs speciality tea company Blends for Friends, met David Cameron

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "With the delivery of economic growth and job creation becoming a more pressing issue nationally, it is encouraging to see the Government engage with businesses across the UK for viable, tangible solutions.

"We recognise that developing overseas trade can often lead to significant business growth, which is why we provide our members with assistance in building such vital links with businesses across the globe.

"As such, we applaud the Government's efforts to listen to the concerns and issues of existing and potential exporting businesses.

"Any forthcoming government scheme or initiative that leads to an increase in Kent and UK exports would be welcomed by the chamber."

Shop-floor workers put the 'fun' into fundraising while bosses have a different agenda to charity

WHEN it comes to giving charity money, shop-floor workers want to feel an affinity with the receiver, while those higher up want it to look good within their own company, according to a new academic paper.

Dr Beth Breeze, director of the University of Kent's centre for philanthropy, highlights a distinct difference in perspectives on corporate philanthropy between those at the bottom and the top of company hierarchy.

She visited 10 Canterbury workplaces and discovered board and senior managers emphasise the business case for corporate philanthropy, which includes reputational benefits and strategic alignments with suitable charities.

Conversely, shop-floor staff prioritise charitable causes with which they have a personal connection, in order to provide enjoyable fundraising experiences that break the monotony of the working day.

HEARTFELT: Study reveals differing corporate attitudes to helping charities

In her paper, Corporate Philanthropy on the Shop Floor: What Drives Employee Fundraising?, Dr Breeze presents findings from research carried out using observation and interviews.

It was undertaken for the Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy, a consortium of universities funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

She said: "The way people on the shop floor, by which we mean staff at the lower end of the pay scale, view corporate philanthropy and fundraising in the workplace is quite different from the way their managers and directors view it.

"People on the shop floor want to support causes they personally care about and to lift their spirits – especially if it involves doing something fun.

"Managers, on the other hand, seek brand building, reputational benefit and staff development opportunity from corporate philanthropy."

The idea of 'fun' was dominant in all the workplaces' discussions that were observed, said Dr Breeze.

She added: "We found the historic model of 'chairman's choice', which prioritised the philanthropic preferences of business owners and leaders, has already evolved into a dual agenda model, where philanthropy strives to deliver both business and social benefits.

"But our research highlighted that we are moving towards a third model, in which corporate philanthropy meets the diverse needs not just of charities and business leaders, but also the needs of their shop-floor staff."

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Orpington specialists in company buyout

AUTOMOTIVE engineers the PT Group has announced the acquisition of SP Gears, a specialist gear manufacturer based in Orpington.

PT's Chris Oswald said: "SP Gears' products and services will complement the specialist and innovative skills available from our other group companies, enabling the sharing of engineering, design, manufacturing, supply and service to enhance our customer offering."

Rising star nomination for restaurant director

EMMA Cooper, finance and marketing director at Margates's Ambrette restaurant, has been shortlisted as a 'rising star' in the Women 1st Shine Awards 2013.

The awards recognise outstanding female and diversity achievement in the hospitality and tourism industries.

The winners will be announced in June at the Marriott Hotel Grosvenor Square in London,

Workplace well-being in focus at workshop

RESEARCH conducted by the Kent Healthy Business Pilot has revealed 92 per cent of employers see staff well-being as a key factor in their business plans, and 64 per cent want access to simple, cost-effective interventions.

The researchers will be sharing their findings at a workshop organised by Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce on May 30 at the Cube, Folkestone.

Accountants pick up industry award, again

MAIDSTONE-BASED accountancy firm Haines Watts has won Auditor of the Year in the SME category for a second time at the annual industry Excellence Awards.

A spokesman said: "It's great to see Haines Watts win such a prestigious award for the second year in succession. This type of award really matters [to us] because it's voted for by business people not by an academic panel."

New chairman takes the reins at Eurostar

CLARE Hollingsworth has been appointed as the new chairman of the board at Eurostar.

She succeeds Richard Brown who has decided to step down when his three-year term comes to an end on June 30.

Ms Hollingsworth said: "Over the last three years the business has been transformed into a successful private entity. We are entering a new phase and I look forward to driving future growth."

Chatham Martime puts its trust in legal team

TUNBRIDGE Wells-based Law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore has signed a deal to become the sole legal service provider to Chatham Maritime Trust for the next five years.

The trust manages Chatham Maritime Estate, which runs residential properties, offices, universities and the commercial area of the old dockyard, which comprises a cinema, bars and restaurants as well as retail outlets.

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Quote TT9-KOS

2 September, 2013

This super holiday taking in the best of Tuscany, starts with a check-in at St Pancras (or Ebbsfleet on request) before joining the Eurostar to Paris. In the French capital we will enjoy dinner at the famous Le Train Bleu restaurant in the Gare de Lyon station, as seen on Michael Portillo's Great Continental Rail Journeys. We then join the Thello overnight sleeper train to Florence, then continue by coach to Montecatini Terme, in Tuscany, our base for this holiday. At our hotel, you will enjoy half board accommodation and free drinks every night. Included excursions take in Pisa Florence, Lucca, Siena and the beach resort of Forte dei Marmi.

Le Train Blue restaurant, inset, Michael Portillo joins Eurostar

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from St Pancras (*from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 set dinner at Le Train Bleu restaurant in Paris
- Overnight sleeper train from Paris to Florence
- 7 nights in Montecatini Terme - half board plus free drinks 7pm to 10pm every night
- 1 night hotel B&B in Nice en-route home
- All excursions
- Transfers abroad
- Rail travel from Nice to St Pancras / *Ebbsfleet

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Quote EL9-KOS

26 September, 2013

Italy's Ligurian Riviera is home to the popular resorts of Portofino, Santa Marguerita and the fabulously higgledy-piggledy Cinque Terra villages - a string of five towns which appear to defy gravity by clinging to the rugged hillsides above the sea. We also visit Pisa, with its famous Leaning Tower; Lucca, with its gothic architecture and well-preserved city walls; Santa Marguerita and Portofino, with their multi-coloured seafront buildings. There is also an option to visit Florence.

Cinque Terra

Lucca

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at St Pancras
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Nice (*from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris outbound
- 6 nights half-board at the Hotel Tigullio in Lavagna
- Welcome and farewell drink
- Ligurian dinner one evening
- 1 night hotel B&B on the Italian Riviera en-route home
- Transfers & touring abroad

Slovenia in a Nutshell

By Air from Stansted
5 days

£499pp

Quote SN9-KOS

29 September, 2013

Bordered by Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia, Slovenia has a little of each in its character and landscapes. This tranquil former Yugoslavian state lies in the heart of Europe, where the Alps meet the Mediterranean, and where the friendly people go out of their way to make visitors welcome and where the diversity of climates and regions is all accessible within just 2 hours of each other.

We fly to the capital, Ljubljana, which is just 2 hours from Stansted. Even better, the lakeside town of Bled - our base for this holiday - is just 40 minutes from the airport. Lake Bled is renowned as one of Europe's most beautiful alpine resorts.

Included excursions are chosen to provide a flavour of the Slovenia's incredible diversity. We ride the Bohinj Railway on our way to delightful seaside resort of Piran. This ride through mountains and alongside rivers on its way to the Italian border is truly one of Europe's most spectacular rail journeys. We also visit Ljubljana, Slovenia's charming capital city, with time to explore.

Lake Bled

Piran

The Bohinj Railway

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout in Slovenia
- Return flights Stansted to Ljubljana
- 4 night's accommodation sharing a twin/double standard room
- 4 breakfasts & 4 dinners + local wine, beer or water served with dinner
- Airport to hotel transfers
- Excursions worth £100 per person

Ferrari - Live the Dream in Maranello

By Air from Gatwick
4 days

£499pp

Quote FC10-KOS

17 October, 2013

Come with us to Maranello in Northern Italy - home to the most famous sports car maker in the world - Ferrari.

Our 4-day tour takes in all the sights of Maranello including the Ferrari Museum, Fiorano Test Track, Enzo Ferrari Museum in Modena and we stay at a Ferrari-themed hotel. No trip to Maranello would be complete without taking a Ferrari out for a spin. Test drives are possible with options to drive a range of models, from the brand new California to the 550 Maranello - ranked as one of the most beautiful and technologically-advanced models ever created.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout abroad
- 3 nights B&B at the 4-star Maranello Village Hotel
- Admissions to: The Ferrari Museum, the Enzo Ferrari Museum PLUS guided bus tour inside the Fiorano test-track proving grounds and Viale Enzo Ferrari
- Return Easyjet flights Gatwick to Bologna including one piece of hand luggage
- Transfers abroad

ADVERTISING PROMOTION

A GREAT TIME TO BUY IN MAIDSTONE WITH HELP TO BUY - ONLY 2 APARTMENTS REMAIN!

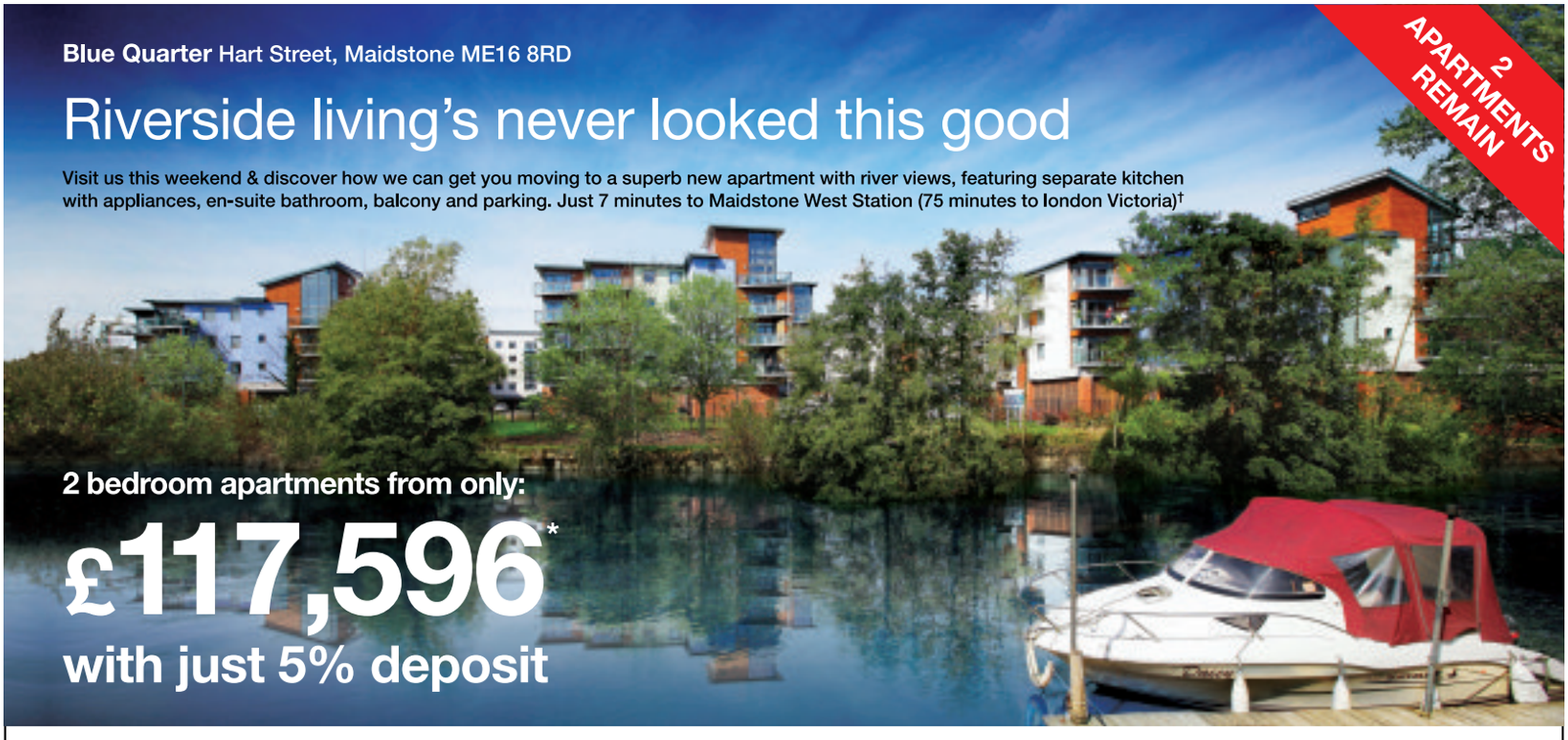
Kier Homes has welcomed the Government's new Help To Buy scheme which is giving more people than ever the chance to purchase a new home.

At Kier Homes' Blue Quarter development off Hart Street, Maidstone, Help to Buy means existing homeowners as well as first time buyers can now purchase a stunning waterside two bedroom apartment on the banks of the river Medway and close to the town centre, for just £117,596* with a 5% deposit of £7,349.75. The Government's Help to Buy loan of up to 20% of the property's value can be repaid at any time or on the sale of the home.

David Thomas, Sales & Marketing Director, Kier Homes said: "With this helping hand from the Government it really is a great time to buy a new home. There's something for everyone at Blue Quarter - a quiet location yet close to vibrant nightlife, great shopping at Maidstone, excellent transport links and beautiful countryside providing the perfect backdrop to escape the hustle and bustle. With only 2 properties remaining we'd urge buyers to act fast to secure their ideal property here."

Two bedroom apartments at Blue Quarter feature contemporary and practical interiors with spacious lounges, well-equipped kitchens, bathrooms and en-suite facilities; and balconies from which to enjoy the riverside setting. Homes also feature eco-friendly fittings such as low energy light bulbs, recycling bins, water butts, low water usage plants, natural paints, water sustainability control, recycled aluminium windows, sustainable timber and high performance boilers.

The Marketing suite at Blue Quarter, Hart Street, Maidstone ME16 8RD is open seven days a week 10am to 5pm; opening until 7pm on Thursdays. For more information, including about Help to Buy, call 01622 673007 or visit www.kierhomes.co.uk



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*Based on the following purchase price, £146,995. With the Help to Buy scheme you can purchase your new home for 80% of the full purchase price. A minimum 5% deposit is required of the full value of the property. The outstanding 20% balance is financed through an 'equity loan' funded by the HCA, which is interest free for the first 5 years. The outstanding balance is paid back as a percentage of the Open Market Value after 25 years or subsequent re-sale, whichever occurs earliest. Help to Buy is available on selected properties only, subject to status. Terms & conditions apply, please refer to your Sales Advisor for details. Kitchen appliances include: oven, hob, extractor fan and washer/dryer. Price correct at time of press. Photography of Blue Quarter. †Nationalrail.co.uk. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.

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HorstedPark CHATHAM

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EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW FUNKY FOUR BEDROOM HOUSES IN CHATHAM

Chatham homebuyers looking to secure a new family home with a unique twist should visit Countryside Properties' award winning Horsted Park development over the weekend of the 18th and 19th May. Four 4 bedroom homes will be open for the first time, each individually designed to provide families with plenty of light and space with features including full height glazing, double garages and fully glazed conservatories.

-With prices starting from £375,000, purchasers would require a 75% mortgage of just £281,250 thanks to the Government's Help to Buy scheme.

Chatham homebuyers looking to secure a new family home with a unique twist should visit Countryside Properties' award winning Horsted Park development over the weekend of the 18th and 19th May. Four 4 bedroom homes will be open for the first time, each individually designed to provide families with plenty of light and space with features including full height glazing, double garages and fully glazed conservatories.

With prices starting from £375,000, purchasers would require a 75% mortgage of just £281,250 thanks to the Government's Help to Buy scheme.

Tony Travers, Managing Director of Countryside Properties' New Homes & Communities Division comments: "Known as the 'dusty shoe' weekend, prospective purchasers will be able to view a variety of four bedroom homes during construction. This is the first time they will be able to walk around these four bedroom homes at Horsted Park and really get a feel for the size and shape of the properties. Each property is uniquely designed which means there will be something to cater for a wide range of tastes and lifestyles and with Help to Buy they are truly affordable."

Each of the four award-winning homes offer spacious and stylish family living with integral conservatories offering plenty of light, four double bedrooms and excellent specifications. Designer features include increased ceiling heights and large feature windows. In particular one of the homes features a stunning fully glazed double gable to the front and a single gable at the back of the property overlooking a beautifully landscaped open space, whilst another benefits from a second rear garden space - a private courtyard.

Thanks to the new Help To Buy initiative recently introduced by the Government, purchasers can secure one of these homes with just a 5% deposit and make their mortgage payments more affordable. With prices starting from £375,000, purchasers would require a 75% mortgage of just £281,250 and the Government will provide an equity loan of up to £75,000 which is interest free for the first 5 years. The balance therefore required for the deposit would be £18,750.

Surrounded by open countryside, Horsted Park will offer an impressive mix of new homes suitable for all types of buyer. The development will also provide over 6.5 acres of open space, representing approximately 30% of the total site area.

Recently awarded "Building Project of the Year" at the Building Awards, the external designs at Horsted Park ensure that the homes are conceived as a series of "farmsteads". These houses take their cue from the rural vernacular of Kent farmsteads to produce a series of squares and courtyards with dwellings arranged around them to provide shelter, open spaces and a comfortable, domestic environment.

The mixture of new houses and apartments alongside new community facilities, as well as large open spaces, will attract interest from those wishing to move to a development that has everything on its doorstep.

Horsted Park benefits from all of the amenities that both Rochester and Chatham have to offer. The M2 is less than a mile away giving rapid access to the M20, M26, M25, the Dartford Crossing and London Airports as well as the channel ports and tunnel.

For further information, contact the Marketing Suite on 01634 406491 or visit www.horstedpark.co.uk.-

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Peugeot gives us a glimpse of the new 308
- Seventh Golf GTI is now available to order
- Superb update for Skoda's flagship model

Jaguar XF enjoys the wide open spaces of an estate

Driving

Powered by motors.co.uk

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AMERICAN brand Chevrolet claims to have invented the sports utility vehicle (SUV) in 1935 by launching the Carryall Suburban.

And the Suburban, more familiar to US customers than here, is now the longest-running vehicle nameplate in the world.

But the General Motors (GM) brand has now launched the youngest, shortest and probably most appropriate SUV name in the world – Trax.

It also happens to be one of the most compact SUVs on the market and, while most will sell in more economical front-wheel-drive format, there are 4x4 versions, too.

But the big selling point, as ever with Chevy, is keen pricing from £15,495 and the brand's five-year/100,000-mile warranty, which puts the mockers on Vauxhall's closely-related Mokka, priced from £18,000.

It also reprises the marketing clanger when Chevy and Vauxhall went head-to-head with the seven-seat Captiva SUV and the more expensive five-seat Antara respectively – no prizes for guessing the winner.

Both GM cars are also up against an established if slightly smaller star at this level, the Nissan Juke (from £12,995).

Somebody is buying cars like these, though. Chevy says compact SUV sector sales rose from 130,214 cars in 2008 to some 264,000 last year. They tend to attract image-conscious townies who enjoy active lifestyles or like to give the impression that they do but are also looking for economy and practicality.

The Trax certainly has the eye-catching looks and image they crave, and within a compact on-road footprint 4.2 metres long, 1.7m wide and 1.6m high. This still allows a roomy cabin plus a maximum 1,370-litre cargo area, with even more stowage beneath the boot floor.

Device connectivity is another big plus, with USB and AUX inputs as standard and, on upmarket models, Chevy's MyLink facility linking to phone books, personal playlists, photo galleries and other stored media on personal phones and MP3-players.

Three engines are offered: a turbocharged 140bhp 1.4-litre petrol unit, normally-aspirated 115bhp 1.6-litre petrol, plus a 130bhp 1.7-litre turbodiesel engine – all manual versions come with Stop/Start, saving fuel and emissions in busy traffic. The front-wheel-drive turbodiesel (from £18,945) is the economy star, with a potential 62.7mpg on the combined cycle, but commands a £1,450 premium over 1.6 petrol equivalents, prompting the usual caution to buyers: make sure you expect to accrue the miles and consequent fuel savings to cover the higher up-front price of the car.

If you need a 4x4 version, though, it is a choice between the 1.4 Turbo (£19,795) and the diesel (£20,495), with the decision made all the harder by the former's 44.1mpg (combined) and 0-62mph in 9.8 seconds versus the diesel's 57.6mpg and 10.5 seconds respectively.

CHEVROLET TRAX

Price: from £15,495
Driving appeal: not yet driven
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Nissan Juke

New Chevy is making Trax

MAKING ITS MARK: New to the junior SUV sector, the Chevrolet Trax certainly catches the eye and comes with a host of gadgets inside, including touch-screen technology

DON'T LIKE

... compact SUVs much at all, but if you have to have one of these needlessly-bulky townies' Tonka Toys, the Trax one of the better-looking.

NOT SURE

... that, despite recent growth, the junior SUV sector is big enough to support the growing competition; Renault and Peugeot have rivals out soon.

REALLY LIKE

... the Chevy package, though: the usual no-nonsense price and warranty, and a car that does what its says on the tin, and with style.

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Pace, grace and extra space

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

JAGUAR doesn't normally 'do' estate cars.

In fact, the British sporting marque never produced an official estate car until 2004, when it added a tailgate to the now-defunct X-Type to produce a far better-looking car than the squished-up saloon version.

But a body style that used to target 'twades-people' and other 'wiff-waff' is now considered upmarket, thanks to German and Swedish premium brands. So it was inevitable that Jaguar would follow the huge success of the stunning, multiple-award-wining XF saloon by creating an estate variant.

Significantly, like German rivals, Jag has also given it a lifestyle label rather than simply calling it an estate; 'Sportbrake' neatly sums up Jag's sporting heritage while doffing its cap to 'shooting brake', a country-set term for a vehicle that moves shooting parties around.

The result is a clever reworking of the XF's four-door coupé profile to create a capacious yet elegant estate with an apparently steeply-raked back end, though this is more a visual trick created by the swooping rear side-window.

It is keenly priced (from £31,945) against its Teutonic equivalents, the Audi A6 Avant, BMW 5-Series Touring and Mercedes-Benz E-Class estate, not to mention Merc's CLS Shooting Brake (from £49,385) – an elegant estate created from its four-door CLS Coupé.

Not that Jaguar's ambitions for the Sportbrake appear to extend far for the moment; there are no out and out sporting versions yet, though the flagship 272bhp 3.0 V6 turbodiesel tested here hits 62mph in 6.6 seconds.

Indeed, with the other two engine options being 160bhp and 197bhp versions of a 2.2-litre four-cylinder diesel, it seems Jaguar's key target for now is company-car-drivers and private buyers who want a bit of the huntin', shootin' and fishin' image but practicality and economy, too.

JAGUAR XF SPORTBRAKE 3.0 V6 PORTFOLIO: £51,505

CLEVER: The sportbrake's reworking of the XF offers a new body shape to Jaguar fans without losing any of the appeal of this luxury brand

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£175/year
Best rival:	Audi A6 Avant 3.0 BiTurbo

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They will certainly get all that with the Sportbrake: the 550-litre boot and 1,675-litre full-load capacity with rear seats down is comparable to German rivals except for the E-Class, which trounces them all for ultimate crammability by offering 1,950 litres.

Whether any can match the Jag for style inside and out, though, is highly debatable. The XF interior is a personal favourite, highlighted by two pieces of theatre when you press the start button: the sigh as the alloy covers for the vents swivel upwards and the automatic gearbox selector's majestic rise from the centre console.

The quality of the fixtures and fittings is also the best in the sector, with the big comfortable leather seats on the test car a potential deal-clincher for any Jag salesman who gets a customer behind the wheel.

And while I wouldn't say the dashboard is completely intuitive, it is neat and classy.

On the road, the Sportbrake has all the élan of its saloon sister, though you are aware that there is a little more weight and bulk in play.

The rear-wheel-drive set-up ensures decent balance with a predictable tendency to dig the nose in and run a little wide on fast corners.

Typically, though, Jaguar has also married the car's desirable handling to a smooth ride, which, coupled with the refined power of our car's flagship V6 engine, makes this a highly desirable load-lugger.

The eight-speed gearbox changes automatically with great smoothness, but the car can also be driven more aggressively using manual selection paddles on the steering wheel.

You'll pay two grand more for a Sportbrake than an equivalent XF saloon, which starts at £29,945, but it's a price worth paying for pace, grace and extra space – if I may corrupt an old Jaguar marketing slogan.

First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

Wraps off next Peugeot 308

PEUGEOT, riding high on the success of the 208 supermini, has given its first official glimpse of the next-generation 308 family hatchback.

The French marque says the newcomer, due here next January, will be good to drive and stylish inside and out, with a "radical new cockpit-style cabin featuring premium materials, exceptional build quality and a clean buttonless interior".

Golf GTI No7 ready to order

ORDER books are open for VW's seventh-generation Golf GTI – the original hot-hatch – priced from £25,845 and just £195 more than before, despite enhancements.

Two turbocharged power options are offered: the 220PS (218bhp) GTI or the 230PS (228bhp) GTI Performance, which also gains larger brake discs and front limited-slip differential for better power application from the front wheels.

Skoda flagship cuts new dash

SHARPER front-end styling on the latest Rapid and Octavia models meant it was only a matter of time before Skoda also upgraded its Superb flagship hatchback and estate (from £18,555).

In showrooms from July 17, it also gets powertrain changes delivering up to 19 per cent better economy, plus improved CO_2-emissions levels and Benefit in Kind tax values.

Motoring

Economical

GREEN MACHINES: Hyundai has dominated the city-car sector with the versatile i10, while the all-electric Mitsubishi iMiEV, left, points the way to motoring in the future

Making the best of going green

ELECTRIC or maybe hydrogen-powered cars might be motoring's future, but the practicality and infrastructure for either still seem a long way off.

Which leaves us making the best of what we've got now – the internal combustion engine.

And it really has come a long way fast since global warming was identified: power and economy have both soared, while CO_2 emissions have come down – it makes you wonder why car-makers didn't do all of this before!

So large family cars and MPVs are now capable of an average fuel consumption close to where superminis were just a few years ago, and it isn't all to do with the engine, either... low-rolling resistance tyres, lighter oils, better aerodynamics and weight-saving techniques all help modern eco-friendly cars eke out every expensive litre of fuel while lowering emissions.

Cars featuring all these tricks are often given special branding, such as Hyundai's Blue Drive series.

It is timely, too, that some car-makers have pioneered hybrid cars, marrying ultra-efficient piston engines with electric motors, to deliver the best of both worlds.

Electric power is clean and delivers instant pulling power, but battery technology is not yet good enough to deliver a realistic travelling range, so that's where the onboard piston engine come in.

Apart from fuel prices and eco worries, the Government is also persuading us to downsize into smaller and cleaner cars through tougher road-tax bandings ranging from zero to £490 a year.

The ceiling can be even higher in year one, when buying a new 'gas-guzzler' model attracts a £1,065 hit via the so-called showroom tax.

Mind you, anyone who can afford a luxury model with that kind of thirst won't be put off by extra outlay like that!

NORTHGATE FIAT, 1 WESTMINSTER ROAD, VAUXHALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CANTERBURY, KENT, CT1 1YY. TEL: 01227 828200 WWW.NORTHGATE-FIAT.CO.UK

Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO_2 emissions in Europe.^ Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500 Pop 1.2 in mpg (l/100km): Urban 49.6 (5.7); Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3); Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO_2 emissions 113g/km. Terms & Conditions apply. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. With Fiat i-Deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (A charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors to provide finance to our customers, including Fiat Financial Services. April to June 2013 offer. Fiat Deposit Contribution available on Fiat 500 models, and is only available in conjunction with Fiat i-Deal Low Cost. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. ^Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume-weighted average CO_2 emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, full year 2012.

5631

ECO MOTORING

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Petrol launches fightback against diesel

DIESEL has been the wonder fuel of the past decade or so. Once associated only with trucks and taxis, it can now be found in luxury cars and even sports models.

New diesel cars have also overtaken petrol as the first choice with UK buyers, but there are signs that it is running out of puff in the race to cut emissions and save money. Its original appeal was the cheapness of the fuel, greater mpg and the better low-down pulling power of the engines, plus the ability to meet tightening emissions legislation.

However, diesel prices are increasing against petrol and there are doubts that the engines can continue to meet ever-tougher emission laws.

Petrol power has hit back with smaller, lighter and cleaner engines, with turbocharging for extra flexibility. And petrol makes great sense on small cars, anyway, because the engines are usually much lighter than diesel equivalents, making them nimbler and nicer to drive as well as easier on front-end mechanicals and tyres.

As you go up the scale in size, though, it could be better to go diesel, though a new-generation lightweight turbocharged petrol engine might be just as effective.

The key is to tot up your likely mileage over the years you own the car – diesel may be more economical, but price at the pumps and the extra cost of buying the new vehicle might make petrol a better bet.

Or you could hedge those bets with a hybrid. The technology partners conventional engines with electric units. They are economical, green and road-tax-friendly and the latest versions run in emission-free EV (electric vehicle) mode for short distances such as the school drop-off or a local shopping trip.

SAVINGS: Honda does economy either through conventional petrol and hybrid versions of the Jazz supermini MPV... or its hybrid family hatchback, the Insight, pictured above

STYLISH: Eco Kia Ceeds are some of most the UK's most handsome family hatchbacks

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Mirage range from £7,999 - £11,999[2]
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1. Over 65mpg and £0 VED achieved on all Mirage models. Combined range fuel consumption from 65.7mpg to 68.9mpg and CO_2 emissions 100 - 95g/km. 2. Prices shown are vehicle launch offer prices and include a customer discount of £1,000 (inc VAT), include VAT (at 20%), exclude VED and First Registration Fee. Metallic paint extra. Model shown is a Mirage 3 Manual with a launch offer price of £10,999. 3. 0% APR Representative Finance excludes Mirage 1. Finance plans are only available through **Finance Mitsubishi, 116 Cockfosters Road, Barnet, EN4 0DY** and are subject to status to customers aged 18 and over. Finance Mitsubishi is part of Lloyds TSB Asset Finance. 0% APR Representative Finance requires a 50% deposit, other offers are available - ask for details. Indemnities may be required. Prices correct at time of going to print. Offer is only applicable in the UK (excludes NI, Channel Islands & I.O.M), subject to availability, whilst stocks last and may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Offer available at participating dealers between 1st and 31st March 2013.

Mirage range fuel consumption in mpg (ltrs/100km): Urban 56.5 - 61.4 (5.0 - 4.6), Extra Urban 72.4 - 78.5 (3.9 - 3.6), Combined 65.7 - 68.9 (4.3 - 4.1), CO_2 Emissions 100 - 95g/km.

ECO MOTORING

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Help yourself to eco savings

EVEN the best of and most miserly of new cars cannot deliver the best savings unless it gets help from the owner and driver.

You can slash pounds off your motoring bills by smarter driving and journey planning.

Avoid short journeys: a cold engine wastes fuel and can produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm one and short trips incur extra servicing and wear the engine faster.

If you must drive, then drive off immediately rather than idling the engine. It will warm up faster, use less fuel and pump out less CO_2.

In winter, this also helps the car-heater warm faster, although windscreens must be fully defrosted before setting off.

Other moneysavers are:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat-nav can help – and go off-peak if possible. If you commute, think about car-sharing, park-and-ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines reduce fuel economy by 10 per cent or more. Catalytic converters clean emissions but only when properly maintained.
- Check tyres: under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.
- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. 'Feather' the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 55mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.
- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine. Pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear-changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.
- Reduce drag: remove roof-racks and carriers when not in use. Open windows cause drag and lower fuel economy. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and accessories and wide tyres that add rolling resistance. Air-conditioning costs fuel, so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.
- Think ahead. There is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.
- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and carry more weight than is necessary?
- Avoid zero mpg. Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions if stuck in a jam.

LIVING THE GREEN: Owning the type of car you want and still being eco-friendly is possible with Hyundai's Blue Drive series, as this sharply-styled i40 Tourer from the Korean manufacturer bears testament

ECO NEWBIES: Mitsubishi Mirage supermini, left, and Kia's Picanto does city-car motoring in style

PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE: CIVIC 1.6 i-DTEC SE IN OPTIONAL ALABASTER SILVER METALLIC	
47 Monthly Payments (duration 48 months)	£246.00
On The Road Price (cash price)	£20,075.00
Customer Deposit	£3,255.40
Customer Deposit (including £800 Honda contribution)	£4,055.40
Total Amount of Credit	£16,019.60
Final Payment (inc. Option to Purchase Fee)	£6,661.78
Option to Purchase Fee	£65.00
Credit Acceptance Fee	£125.00
Total Amount Payable	£22,279.18
Interest Rate per Annum (Fixed)	4.38%
Representative APR	4.9%

Fuel consumption for the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 emissions 94g/km.

Model shown: Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SE Manual in optional Alabaster Silver Metallic at £20,075 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic 1.6 i-DTEC registrations from 2 April 2013 to 30 June 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Deposit contribution:** £800 Honda deposit contribution on Civic 1.6 i-DTEC models. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Representative example based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.

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Motorline Hyundai – Canterbury 0843 658 2657 Units 2b & 2c, Westminster Road, Canterbury CT1 1YY

† The Personal Contract Hire advertised is available on i10 Classic 1.2, i20 Classic 1.2 and i30 Classic 1.4 models only. Rentals include VAT, start in the next calendar month and are based on an initial rental of £1,308 followed by 35 monthly rentals of £109 on i10 Classic 1.2, initial rental of £1,548 followed by 35 monthly rentals of £129 on i20 Classic 1.2, initial rental of £2,148 followed by 35 monthly rentals of £179 on i30 Classic 1.4. The monthly rentals shown are based on a 36 month non-maintained agreement with metallic paint and with a mileage limitation of 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage and other charges may apply dependent on the mileage and condition of the vehicle at the end of the contract. Personal Contract Hire is made available by ALD Automotive Ltd, trading as Hyundai Personal Contract Hire, BS16 3JA. Terms and conditions apply. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. When the vehicle is returned it must be in good condition and not have exceeded the agreed mileage otherwise further charges will be incurred. Model and colour are subject to availability. If you choose this personal contract hire offer, you will not own the car. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 2nd April and 30th June 2013, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer.

Fuel consumption MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) – 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 32.1 (8.8) – 88.3 (3.2), CO_2 Emissions 231 – 84 g/km.

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Description

We are looking to appoint a well organised, reliable , flexible and competent person.

Experience is desirable, but not essential as training will be provided. Candidates should be competent in the use of a Word Processor, email and internet and have access to a computer.

Bean School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau and check against the ISA barred list for working with Children.

You should have an interest in education, be tactful and be able to deal with matters confidentially. You should be reliable and have a good sense of humour.

Closing date for applications Friday, 7th June 2013.

Contact the School Office on 01474 833225, for an application form, or Bean Primary School, School Lane, Bean, Dartford, Kent DA28AL

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

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Medway Campus

MidKent College is looking for an experienced, dynamic, and creative Music lecturer to teach Level 2 and 3 Music students. Experience of BTEC qualifications is essential along with the ability to develop and take a lead on curriculum content and delivery. The successful applicant will have professional experience in the Music industry. A sound knowledge of music theory is also required. The college has a range of excellent resources with a fully equipped theatre, recording studio and a newly built live room. A job share would be considered. The successful candidate(s) will be able to motivate, inspire and teach our learners to realise their ambitions to work in the Music industry.

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply for this position please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.

Closing Date midday 20th May 2013.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

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Abbey Court School

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Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a....

Physiotherapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team
Medway Scale B2 to A – point 32 to 46 (£27,052 to £38,961)
(full time – term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Physiotherapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential. The postholder will be offered the opportunity to express their creativity, work holistically and demonstrate their strengths whilst undertaking a wide variety of tasks within the post.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. The successful candidate will work as part of a larger therapy team, alongside Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Music and Art Therapists. Candidates should hold a relevant Physiotherapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed. Salary is negotiable between top and bottom scales. Job share will be considered.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 24th May 2013

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact **Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236)**, stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CVs will not be accepted.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that The County Hotel Canterbury Ltd of 4 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HA has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a Premises Licence as follows:

The provision every day of Films from 08:00 to 02:00hrs, Live music from 08:00 to 02:00hrs, Recorded music from 08:00 to 02:00hrs, Performances of dance from 08:00 to 02:00hrs, Late night refreshment from 23:00 to 02:00hrs, Supply of alcohol from 08:00 to 02:00hrs. Hours of opening 08:00 to 02:30hrs every day. On New Year's Eve all activities to continue from the end of Permitted Hours until the beginning of Permitted Hours on New Year's Day and on the morning when Summer Time begins one extra hour on all regulated activities and hours of opening. The above for the premises 'Old Brewery Tavern' situated at Stour Street, Canterbury.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 07/06/2013.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB30

IN THE PARISH OF ST COSMUS AND ST DAMIAN IN THE BLEAN

PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB30 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath CB30, between its junction with Public Footpath CB31 and Public Bridleway CB24A from the 3rd June 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Public Footpath CB31 to the South and CB25 to the North and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR351

IN THE PARISH OF WESTERHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR351 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath SR351, between Vicarage Hill and Public Footpath SR350 from the 3rd June 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 22nd July 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via SR350 and Mill Street and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Nicky Biddall on

contact centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR474

IN THE PARISH OF AYLESFORD

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR474 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath MR474, between Mill Hall Road and the Eastern end of Friars View from the 13th May 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because repair works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michele Snoding.

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

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NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH MR602 AT SNODLAND)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 24th April 2013 an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the above Order with modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Footpath (MR602) which commences on Bingley close at NGR TQ 7004 6183 (point A), running in a north-north-easterly direction for 31 metres and then turns in an east-south-easterly direction for 38 metres to join with Birling Road at NGR TQ 7009 6185 (point B). (Between point A and B on the Order plan). The path has a width of 1.8 metres from NGR TQ 7004 6183 to NGR TQ 7004 6186. The path has a width of 2 metres from NGR TQ 7004 6186 to NGR TQ 7009 6185 except to the rear of No.51 Bingley Close where the width is 1.7 metres; between NGR TQ 7004 6186 and NGR TQ 70009 6185 the width is measured from the centre of the Tomlin Close boundary hedge as shown on the 1:2,500 inset in the Order plan.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

This Order became operative as from 24th April 2013 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 19th May 2013 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 19th May 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

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PLANNING

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0423/SH+ - 121 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5JJ - Change of use and conversion of police station to create a self contained first floor flat and ground floor retail unit (Class A1).

Y13/0333/SH - Flat A 6 Albion Villas Folkestone Kent CT20 1RP - Change of use and conversion of the existing ground and lower ground floor maisonette into two self contained flats together with construction of a rear balcony area and other external alterations. (Resubmission of Y12/1053/SH).

Y13/0434/SH - Flat A 6 Albion Villas Folkestone Kent CT20 1RP - Listed building consent for conversion of existing ground and lower ground floor maisonette into a self contained flats, together with construction of a rear balcony area and other internal and external alterations (resubmission of Y12/1121/SH).

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/MA/0132/2013 - Proposed development at St Johns C of E Primary School, Provender Way, Weavering, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5TZ.

Kent County Council Property and Infrastructure Support are applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the proposed construction of a 6 classroom extension, hall extension, internal alterations and the provision of 16 additional car parking spaces, a grass-crete access road to the side and rear of the school and additional hard play space. The development site is in close proximity to, and may affect, a public right of way.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 19 May 2013

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/00770/FUL: Linden Lea, Blean Common, Blean, CT2 9ES Dormer to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs McPhie** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00775/ADV: South Street Crossing, Millstrood Road and South Street, Whitstable Installation of heritage panel sign **Applicant: South Street Womens Institute** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00827/FUL: 1 Gordon Road, Canterbury, CT1 3PW Replacement windows **Applicant: Mr Cotton** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00835/FUL: 153 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE Replacement windows and doors. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Colman** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00837/FUL: Whitefriars Shopping Centre, Gravel Walk, Canterbury Installation of solar panels on top of two roofs of the Whitefriars Shopping Centre above the car park and units 1-13. **Applicant: Whitefriars Canterbury Unit Trust** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00851/FUL: 2 Blossom Court, Sturry, CT2 0BQ Erection of a rear conservatory **Applicant: Ms Emery** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00853/FUL: Former Oil Depot, Union Road, Bridge, CT4 5LW Erection of four detached dwellings. **Applicant: Ammasa Properties Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00858/FUL: 10 Runcie Place, Canterbury, CT2 8DY Extension of garden area and re-siting of garden wall **Applicant: Mrs Barbara Miles** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00860/FUL: 41 Mill Road, Sturry, CT2 0AS Conversion of existing shop (Use Class A1) and residential accommodation to provide three flats (Use Class C3). **Applicant: Mr Brown** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00864/FUL: 32 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP Widening of rear annex, changing main roof to incorporate a loft conversion and second floor roof terrace. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Crawthorne** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00868/FUL: 190 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SE Demolition of existing building and construction of three and four storey development comprising 2 three bedroom houses, 8 one and two bedroom apartments and one 50 square metre ground floor retail unit (use classes A1 and A2) pedestrian and vehicular access, five parking spaces, cycle parking, bin storage and amenity space. **Applicant: Kent and Sussex Properties** Reason: Major and conservation area.

CA//13/00869/CAC: 190 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SE Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of existing building and construction of three and four storey development comprising 2 three bedroom houses, 8 one and two bedroom apartments and one 50 square metre ground floor retail unit (use classes A1 and A2) pedestrian and vehicular access, five parking spaces, cycle parking, bin storage and amenity space. **Applicant: Kent and Sussex Properties** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA//13/00870/FUL: Yockletts Farm, Church Lane, Waltham, CT4 5QH Erection of garden store **Applicant: Mr Jones** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA//13/00872/FUL: 1 Great Pett Oast, Pett Hill, Bridge, CT4 5AN Proposed extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Shirley** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00877/FUL: 62-64 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DT Erection of 14 bed student accommodation building to land rear of 62-64 New Dover Road. **Applicant: Greenham Properties** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00880/FUL: National Westminster House, 37 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3JB Works to include removal and disposal of the existing external chiller units and the erection of replacement wall mounted condensate pumps and air ducts. **Applicant: Hawden Associates Limited** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00883/ADV 60 Dover Street, Canterbury, CT1 3HD Erection of non-illuminated hanging sign, protruding from the front elevation of the practice displaying the practice logo and information. **Applicant: Dental Care Centre** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00892/LB: Patrixbourne Oast, The Street, Patrixbourne, Bekesbourne, CT4 5DA Provision of ensuite to second floor, alterations to staircase from first to second floor, alterations to roof struts and internal walls to existing second floor room, provision of two number rooflights to rear roof within roof valley, provision of solid fuel flue pipe to rear of property. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Wakelin** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//13/00899/FUL: The Old House, Garlinge Green Road, Garlinge Green, Petham Change of use from a pool house to a self-contained annexe ancillary to the enjoyment of the main dwelling house. **Applicant: Mrs Knox** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 10 June 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 17 May 2013

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00197 Erection of a log cabin to be used as a shop (Use Class A1)
Delf Nursery, Deal Road, Sandwich, CT13 0BU **MAJ**

DOV/13/00332 Ground based photovoltaic solar farm, access and associated works
Land at Marshborough Farm off, Ash Road, Sandwich, CT13 0PJ **MAJ**

DOV/12/00299 Installation of replacement windows and doors and painting of exterior and erection of gates to front
55 New Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BD **CON**

DOV/13/00187 Erection of a pitched roof on existing garage with associated alterations
65 Liverpool Road, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7NN **SLB**

DOV/13/00331 Erection of a temporary four bay classroom
Ripplevale School, Chapel Lane, Ripple, Deal, CT14 8JG **SLC**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
MAJ - Major Development
SLC - To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
CON - In a Conservation Area **SLB** - To affect setting of a Listed Building

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/01106/FULMJ **Stables Bank Farm, Capel**
- Demolition of covered sand school, dutch barn, hay store, DIY stables and caravan and development of covered sand school and three american barn stable blocks (MAJOR) (LB)

13/01097/FUL **The Village Shop And Post Office The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Single storey rear extension, internal alterations and redecoration of shop front (LB) (CA)

13/01100/LBC **The Village Shop And Post Office The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension and removal of modern internal walls (LB)

13/01067/HOUSE **16 Earls Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Dormer in side roof (CA)

13/01173/FUL **Pitcher & Piano 3 - 5 Church Road, Culverden**
- Reclad galvanised steel fencing with cedar boarding (CA)

13/01102/HOUSE **Fairmead Back Lane, Goudhurst**
- Installation of a conservation velux window in South facing side of brick shed (CA)

13/00937/LBC **Woodsden Barn Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Installation of a wood burning stove with metal flue (LB)

13/01126/HOUSE **2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Garage, log store and mower/implement store (LB)

13/01150/LBC **2 Cumberland Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed building consent - alterations to provide a kitchen/breakfast room and entrance steps to the front to glazed painted timber doors to the basement to replace an existing window (LB)

13/01152/FUL **David Salomons Estate Broomhill Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Temporary car park for 63 cars located to the rear of Runcie Court for a period of five years from July 2013 (LB)

13/01180/FUL **2 Fernhurst Crescent Southborough, Southborough Town Council**
- Two storey, 3 bedroom house (three storey to rear) with associated external works and landscaping (CA)

13/01192/HOUSE **26 Beulah Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**
- Three storey rear extension (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 18 May 2013

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/0255/S - MULBERRY FARM, EAST STREET, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0RA - Variation of condition 04 of planning permission reference MA/03/1087 granted on appeal (being for the change of use of land to residential for three mobile homes for a gypsy family) to allow for the stationing of a further two mobile homes for family members. **Reason: 7**

MA/13/0523/N - KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, SESSIONS HOUSE, COUNTY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1XQ - Listed Building Consent for refurbishment of toilet facilities on first floor. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0557/N - SHERRINGHAM HALL, BUNCE COURT ROAD, OTTERDEN, FAVERSHAM, KENT, ME13 0BY - Conversion of existing integral garage to living accommodation and erection of a double car port. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0590/S - 20, CARMAN'S CLOSE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0DR - Retrospective application for the erection of a summerhouse building. Reason: 7

MA/13/0675/S - HERONDEN, CHART HILL ROAD, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EZ - 3 new external doors in an existing brick wall. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0677/S - WELL COTTAGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey rear extension. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0678/N - FRININGHAM MANOR, FRININGHAM, DETLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3JD - Conversion of existing manor from two residential units into three self-contained residential dwellings with associated gardens and parking areas. **Reason: 7**

MA/13/0689/S - INWOOD, WELL STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EW - Retrospective application for the erection of a lean-to log store extension to existing detached garage. Reason: 1

MA/13/0693/S - THE PARSONAGE, LAND EAST OF GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, KENT - Outline planning application for a residential development of up to 144 dwellings (use class C3), including allotments, open spaces, infrastructure, landscaping, access and associated works with details of access and layout provided at this stage. **Reason: 6, 7, 9**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **2nd June 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 19th May 2013.

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 03 June 2013.

SW/13/0242:
Advertisement consent for two replacement ATM tablets, one replacement fascia sign - Halifax PLC, 70-74 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0251:
Siting of a container with portacabin above with associated staircase to provide a temporary harbour look out facility - Crundalls Wharf, North Street, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASON 4**

SW/13/0366:
Removal of front door and windows and replacement with new hardwood joinery to match original designs found in other houses of the same street - 6 Beckett Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0455:
Outline application for the erection of 13 two storey dwellings, new access road and associated car parking - Barrow Green Farm, Lower Road, TEYNHAM; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0504:
Proposed change of use from annexe to holiday let - The Granary, Wrens Farm House, Wrens Road, BORDEN; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0519:
Listed building consent for replacement of 4 no. casement windows (not frame) in top bedrooms with exact copies. Replacement of existing front doors with exact copies including reinstatement of original glazing detail - 123 The Street, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN, **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

ARLINGTON, ASHFORD (RESTRICTIONS ON CYCLISTS & PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential cable maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Arlington, Ashford, on or after 3 June 2013, as shown below.

Works are planned to commence from 3 June 2013 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

The Footpath between Arlington and Hillbrow Lane will be closed, as signposted on site.

The alternative route is via footpaths on Arlington and Hillbrow Lane, as signed.

VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD AREA (MICRO-SURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JUNE 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-asphalt surfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Ashford Area, on or after 7 June 2013, as shown below.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as follows.

Roads will be closed between 08:30 hours and 17:30 hours each day, except where otherwise stated.

HART HILL, CHARING will be closed between Maidstone Road and Four Winds, **7 & 10 June 2013**

Alternative route via Maidstone Road, Charing Hill and Bowl Road

BOWL ROAD, CHARING will be closed between Charing Hill and Warren Street, **11 - 13 June 2013**

Alternative route via Hart Hill, Maidstone Road and Charing Hill

STONEBRIDGE GREEN ROAD, THE STREET & ROCKS HILL ROAD will be closed between Iden Lane and Malt House Farm, **14 & 15 June 2013** - 09:00 hours to 15:00 hours.

Alternative route via Coach Road, Egerton House Road, Link Hill Lane and Crocken Hill Road

BRISSENDEN GREEN LANE, BETHERSDEN will be closed between Standard Lane to Heather Farm, **16 June 2013**

Alternative route via Standard Lane, Ashford Road and Woodchurch Road

FORGEFIELD, BETHERSDEN closed from Church Hill for entire length, **16 June 2013**

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

These works are weather dependent, and adverse conditions may prevent some works going ahead on the dates shown. For any that are postponed, revised dates will be notified locally and signposted on site.

Certain roads may need a brief repeat closure 1-2 weeks after the closures shown above, to allow for replacement of lining, with closures notified by signage on site.

WYE LEVEL CROSSING, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make ade an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wye Level Crossing, Wye, on or after 9 June 2013, as shown below.

Bridge Street, Wye will be closed in the vicinity of the Level Crossing, from Sunday 9 June 2013 at 01:55 hours through until Monday 10 June at 04:40 hours.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road, Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BROAD OAK LEVEL CROSSING, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broad Oak Level Crossing, Sturry, on or after 9 June 2013, as shown below.

Broad Oak Road, Sturry will be closed at Broad Oak Level Crossing, from Sunday 9 June at 01:00 hours through until Monday 10 June at 04:00 hours.

The alternative route is via Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road, A28 Mill Road, A291 Sturry Hill, Sweechgate and Shalloak Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL GREAT QUEENS STREET DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

Because of access to carriagway boxes for cabling, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Great Queens Street Dartford, on or after 20th May 2013 for up to 1 night between the hours of 21.00-06.00 hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with little Queen Street to junction with East Hill.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via East Hill, St Albans Road and Little Queens Street.

PRIORY ROAD, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because Southern Cranes and Access Ltd need to place a crane to lift electrical equipment onto the railway Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Priory Road, Dartford on or after 9th June and on or after 27th October 2013 each for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Victoria Road and the Railway Bridge. The alternative route is via Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Westgate Road and Priory Road.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

CHURCH STREET ST MARY'S, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe placement of scaffolding for building repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Street St Mary's, Sandwich, on or after 25 May 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Vicarage Lane and Strand Street.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Lane, Bowling Street and Strand Street.

SOMERSET ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of bridge repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Somerset Road, Deal, on or after 25 May 2013 for up to 1 day, between 08:00 hours and 20:00 hours.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Telegraph Road, Cornwall Road and Downs Road.

D386R- Ad D386R/2 - Woodnesborough Road Level Crossing, Sandwich (Phil)

WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Woodnesborough Road Level Crossing, Sandwich, on or after 25 May 2013 as shown below.

The planned closure is from Saturday 25 May 2013 at 00:35 hours until Sunday 26 May 2013 at 04:50 hours.

Woodnesborough Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, New Street, Cattle Market and Moat Sole

Westbound via Moat Sole, Cattle Market, Harnett Street, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, New Street, St Bart's Road and Woodnesborough Road.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BACK STREET, LEEDS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace an electricity pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Back Street, Leeds on or after 7 June 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Forge Lane and Avery Lane.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane, Upper Street, Horseshoes Lane, Back Street.

A249 SITTINGBOURNE ROAD/DETLING HILL AND OTHER ROADS AT DETLING/THURNHAM/STOCKBURY (NO STOPPING OR WAITING, SPEED RESTRICTIONS & TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic speed, the regulation of traffic and the use by traffic as described below. The order shall come into operation at times when required on 25th/26th/27th May 2013 and 12th/13th/14th July 2013 and 24th/25th/26th August 2013.

This Order also prohibits traffic travelling at any speed greater than 50mph on the northbound carriageway of Detling Hill/Sittingbourne Road between the existing permanent 50mph speed restriction 407 metres north east of its junction with Scragged Oak Road to the Detling Aerodrome Approach Road.

SCHEDULE

1. Traffic in excess of 40 mph shall be prohibited as follows:-
   - (i) On Detling Hill, Detling/Sittingbourne Road, Thurnham/Stockbury between the existing permanent 50 mph speed restriction at a point 480 metres north east of the junction with Scragged Oak Road to the turning for Detling Aerodrome Industrial Estate on the north east bound carriageway and from the former Lily Spice restaurant on the south west bound carriageway.
   - (ii) Traffic in excess of 50 mph shall be prohibited from the former Lily Spice restaurant to the right hand turn into Detling Aerodrome Industrial Estate and then prohibited to 40 mph to the top of Detling Hill.
   - (iii) Traffic in excess of 40 mph shall be prohibited on Sittingbourne Road/Detling Hill, Detling/Thurnham/Stockbury in both directions between its junction with the M20 roundabout (junction 7) and the M2 roundabout (junction 5).
   - (iv) Traffic in excess of 30 mph shall be prohibited on Scragged Oak Road, Detling.
2. No person shall, except upon the direction of a Police Officer, cause or permit a vehicle to:-
   - (i) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 south west bound into Scragged Oak Road.
   - (ii) Carry out a right hand turn from Scragged Oak Road onto the A249 south west bound.
   - (iii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 northbound into South Green Lane.
   - (iv) Carry out a right hand turn or "U" turn on the A249 northbound at its junction with Rumstead Lane.
   - (v) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Aerodrome Approach.
   - (vi) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Chalky Road.
   - (vii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Church Hill.
   - (viii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Honeycrock Hill.
   - (ix) Carry out a right hand turn from Pett Lane northbound onto A249.
3. The alternative routes for traffic affected by 2(i), 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix) above are either:-
   - (i) via the roundabout at junction 5 of the M2 motorway
   - (ii) via the roundabout at junction 7 of the M20 motorway
4. Prohibit waiting and stopping on A249 Detling Hill.

OAKWOOD ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Oakwood Road, Maidstone, on or after 8 June 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 56.

The alternative route is via Bower Mount Road, A26 Tonbridge Road.

OTHAM STREET, OTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a retaining wall, concrete post, steel rails, carriageway and clear vegetation Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Otham Street, Otham, on or after 3 June 2013 for up to 12 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Gable Cottages.

The alternative route is via Simmonds Lane, Honey Lane, Avery Lane, Back Street, Caring Road, Green Hill.

A229 UPPER STONE STREET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a frame and cover, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A229 Upper Stone Street on or after 22 May 2013 for up to 1 night between 23.30hrs and 05.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Mote Road to Old Tovil Road.

The alternative route is via Mote Road, Wat Tyler Way, A20 Ashford Road, Willington Street, A274 Sutton Road, A229 Loose Road. For over height vehicles via Knightrider Street, Mill Street, Palace Avenue, Lower Stone Street, Mote Road, Wat Tyler Way, A249 Albion Place/Sittingbourne Road/Bearsted Road, New Cut Road, A20 Ashford Road, Lord Romney's Hill, Willington Street, A274 Sutton Road, A249 Loose Road.

WATERDITCH LANE, LENHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Waterditch Lane, Lenham on or after 20 May 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Warren Street and Rayners Hill.

The alternative route is via Warren Street, Bunces Court Road, Coldharbour Road.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

WELL HILL, SHOREHAM, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of laying a new water supply to 111 on behalf of Thames Water, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Well Hill, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, on or after 20 May 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the property known as Achieved. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Rock Hill, Well Hill.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

DAWES ROAD, DUNKIRK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dawes Road, Dunkirk, on or after 4 June 2013, as shown below.

Works are planned to commence from 4 June 2013 to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Dawes Road will be closed between the junctions with Thread Lane / Stoney Road and Holly Hill Road.

The alternative route is via Dawes Road, Staplestreet Road, Canterbury Road, Courtenay Road and Dawes Road.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

GLENWOOD DRIVE, MINSTER-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Glenwood Drive, Minster-on-Sea, on or after 20 May 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Minster Road and Saxon Avenue.

The alternative route is via B2008 Minster Road, The Broadway and Saxon Avenue.

STOCKERS HILL, RODMERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stockers Hill, Rodmersham, on or after 3 June 2013, for up to 4 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Highsted Valley, Cheney Hill and Bottles Lane.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

NASH ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road widening and improvements, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Nash Road, Margate, on or after 3 June 2013 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

Nash Road will be closed between the junctions with Star Lane and Haine Road.

The alternative route is via Star Lane, Star Lane Link and A256 Haine Road.

YORK STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on York Street, Ramsgate, on or after 20 May 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 12, with no through access between the junctions with Harbour Parade and Queen Street.

The alternative route is via Harbour Parade, Leopold Street and Queen Street.

The one-way Traffic Order in respect of York Street will be suspended for its entire length, to allow access from either direction to the point of closure.

The one-way Traffic Order in respect of Queen Street will be suspended between the junctions with York Street and Leopold Street to allow access to York Street.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (SURFACE DRESSING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JUNE 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing dressing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Thanet area, on or after 8 June 2013, as shown below.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as follows.

Roads will be closed between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day, and otherwise re-opened.

PLUMSTONE ROAD, ACOL / MONKTON closed for its entire length (junctions with Seamark Road and Minster Road)

8 June 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via Minster Road, A299 Thanet Way and Seamark Road

SHOTTENDANE ROAD, BIRCHINGTON / MARGATE closed for its entire length (junctions with B2050 Manston Road and Manston Road)

8 June 2013 for up to 2 days

Alternative route via B2050 Park Lane, A28 Canterbury Road, George V Avenue and Hartsdown Road

PRESTON ROAD, MANSTON closed for its entire length (junctions with Manston Court Road and Manston Road)

9 June 2013 for up to 2 days

31 July 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via Manston Court Road and Manston Road

These works are weather dependent, and adverse conditions may prevent some works going ahead on the dates shown. For any that are postponed, revised dates will be notified locally and signposted on site.

Certain roads may need a brief repeat closure 1-2 weeks after the closures shown above, to allow for replacement of lining, with closures notified by signage on site.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

LAVENDERS ROAD, WEST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to reinstate a patch in the middle of the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lavenders Road, West Malling on or after 22 May 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Water Lane, High Street, Swan Street.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

COLLIERS GREEN ROAD, CRANBROOK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Colliers Green Road, Cranbrook, on or after 8 June 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Marden Road to Round Green Lane.

The alternative route is via A262 Goudhurst Road, A229 Wilsley Pound/The Common/Rocks Hill/Cranbrook Road, Pinnock Lane, Goudhurst Road, Folly Hill, Round Green Lane.

LOWER GREEN ROAD, PEMBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install high friction surfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Green Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 25 May 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed adjacent to The Forstall and adjacent to Bulls Place.

The alternative route is via Maidstone Road, A228 Pembury By Pass, High Street, Lower Green Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 19th May 2013

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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It's jobs for Kent

CRICKET

Picture: ADY KERRY

IMPRESSIVE: James Tredwell led by example

Tredders keen to carry on aggressive streak

JAMES Tredwell is eyeing a more attacking approach to his batting, having seen Kent Spitfires to their third victory in four Yorkshire Bank 40 matches.

Kent have given themselves a solid start in the 40-over version of the game, with wins over Warwickshire, The Netherlands and this week Worcestershire, losing out only to Nottinghamshire.

It leaves the Spitfires second in their Group A, with Sussex and Northamptonshire yet to play in the first round of matches.

And it was Tredwell who inspired his side to the latest win against the Royals on Wednesday night with an impressive 42 runs from 40 balls.

It saved Kent after a lack-lustre start in chasing their opponents' 110 for 9 in a match reduced to 25 overs because of rain at the St Lawrence Ground.

"I've fought myself against playing like that for a while," he said. "I've been trying to play like a batsman. That's when I play at my best – that's what I'm going to do from now on."

They were helped in the field by two superb catches from Sam Billings and Ben Harmison in claiming their three-wicket victory, which Tredders hopes can kick-start a County Championship season that so far has not got off the ground.

"There's no surprise in that [the fielding]," he said. "In all four games we've fielded out of our skins – if we do that, the bowlers appreciate it.

"It's a real telling feature of our one-day form and we need to keep that up as we play against the numerous good sides we do in this competition."

■ **Kent are taking on Worcestershire in the County Championship this weekend at the St Lawrence Ground, with play having started on Friday.**

FOOTBALL

Football League dream

Kuwaiti cash could be on its way to the north of the county... **Greg Miles** talks to the investors involved

Picture: ADY KERRY

AFTER months of turmoil the serious business of breathing new life into Ebbsfleet United appears to be on the horizon.

The side have struggled with cash-flow problems in a season that ended in relegation from the Blue Square Premier, with players and staff not being paid and the risk of a winding-up order from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

There was also the interest from Canary Islands businessman Carlos Kabir Karani, who had courted the club for the last month without confirming a proposal that had included the idea of bringing in top young players from across Europe.

But in the meantime, and almost undetected while focus was switched to fund-raising efforts to stave off the tax man, a Kuwaiti investment group emerged.

Within a matter of days of going public with its deal, the group is now undergoing due diligence at Stonebridge Road as it presses ahead with its takeover plans.

Led by former Charlton chief executive Peter Varney, investment group KEH Sports Ltd (KSL) is looking to take control from web-based internet group MyFootballClub.co.uk, whose members voted last weekend to pursue interest in a deal with Varney and co, with 96 per cent in favour.

Talk has already started of planning permission being sought to redevelop Stonebridge Road, with an additional stand in the pipeline, funding for which has been promised by KSL should a deal go through.

The money man behind that group, Dr Abdulla Al Humaidi, chief executive of Kuwaiti European Holdings Company, of which KSL is a subsidiary, has spoken of his desire to take the Fleet into the Football League.

He is not the first from his country to pour money into the English game, with compatriot Fawaz Al Hasawi owning Nottingham Forest.

"I love football," said Dr Al Humaidi. "I want to help Ebbsfleet become a league team and reach League Two, or League One, or even the Championship.

"I think a club of similar stature should be playing in the league and hopefully with our backing and leadership and Peter Varney the team can be very successful.

"Peter has experience of 30 years – he will lead the football club.

"It's very exciting. I'm hoping to come in the next couple of weeks and visit the stadium. I'm very excited about the support and backing we can bring to the club.

"I have no experience of sports – that's why Peter is heading the entire thing.

"As a company we brought in Peter because of his vast experience during his time at Charlton. We think that he's more than capable at Ebbsfleet."

The exact details of the deal, shown right, were revealed last Friday before MyFC members voted over the weekend,

Dr Al Humaidi said: "It's a passion for myself. I don't expect a return from the investment – it's just a passion. I will go to any matches if all goes well."

KEH had held talks for six months with Blue Square South side Eastbourne Borough about taking over, but that hit the rocks at the end of April.

It was also looking to back a £350 million water-park project in Newhaven, East Sussex, but the plug was pulled recently as it was thought not to be financially viable.

It owns a hotel and office block in Eastbourne, where a relation of Dr Al Humaidi had spent time in the 1960s learning English.

The company deals mainly with leisure, medical and real-estate investment opportunities around Asia the Middle East and England.

SPORTS SHORTS

ATHLETICS

Dobriskey and co set for Loughborough test

OLYMPIANS Lisa Dobriskey and Jack Green will be among four Kent athletes competing at Loughborough this weekend.

It will be the first event of the season for New Romney star Dobriskey, who will run in the 3,000m at the Paula Radcliffe Stadium on Sunday in the Loughborough International.

Last week, Hythe hurdler Green ran in the first Diamond League event of the season in Doha, Qatar, competing in the 400m hurdles but falling before the finish.

The duo will be joined by Blackheath athlete Dina Asher-Smith in the 200m and Bobby Clay, from Invicta East Kent Athletics Club, who will compete in the 1,500m.

FOOTBALL

Quiz former Chelsea ace at charity night

FORMER Chelsea and England legend Ray Wilkins will be talking about his career at a charity dinner this month in Sandwich.

Wilkins, 56, played for Chelsea, Manchester United, AC Milan, Rangers and QPR in a career that included 84 caps for England.

He also had a spell as manager at QPR.

The evening, in aid of Pilgrims Hospice at the BayPoint club on Thursday, May 23, starts at 7pm, with a buffet served from 7.30pm and followed by a question-and-answer session with Wilkins and a charity auction.

Tickets, which include the buffet, are priced at £35. To book, phone 01304 613022 or email bistro@baypointclub.co.uk.

ICE HOCKEY

Dynamos are a good fit for new boy Lack

INVICTA Dynamos coach Kevin Parrish has begun his recruitment drive early by bringing in Bracknell Bees forward Alan Lack.

It is the 20-year-old's first move away from the Berkshire side, having made his debut for them in the English National Ice Hockey League in 2008-09 aged 16.

Lack made the step up to full-time in their senior side last year, having played 101 ENIHL games, with 52 goals, 61 assists and 113 points.

He said: "I believe signing for Invicta next season is a great move for me and hopefully a great move for the club.

"The Dynamos play a style of hockey that will most definitely suit my approach to the game."

FOOTBALL

Eagles on the agenda for Gills in pre-season

NEWLY-PROMOTED Gillingham have lined up six pre-season friendlies.

Millwall are due to visit on Saturday, July 20, in a 12.30pm start, while Gills take on Crystal Palace at Priestfield on Tuesday, July 23, in a 7.30pm kick-off.

Before then, they take on Blue Square South's Bromley at Hayes Lane on Saturday, July 6, kick-off 3pm. Martin Allen will then organise two squads for a double-header on Saturday, June 29, when they take on Faversham Town at 1pm and Ashford United at 3pm. Both games are away.

Finally, Gills visit Blue Square Premier side Woking on Saturday, July 27.

for Kuwaiti money man

REFURBISHMENT? New deal could see Stonebridge Road have a new stand

FLEET DEAL IN NUMBERS

£100,000
Transfer budget for 2013/14

£8,000
Proposed playing budget per week for the following two seasons

£10,000
What KSL will pay for the entire share capital of the club

£7,500
Paid to MyFootballClub.co.uk

£41,900
The aggregate sum paid to settle all loans owed by the club to directors, shareholders and third parties

Varney: Fleet will be run in a responsible way

REBUILD: Peter Varney has vision

PETER Varney is a man who knows his way around a football club.

Twice involved at Charlton Athletic, he oversaw their rise to the Premier League from 1997 before stepping down as chief executive in 2008 when the club were back in the Championship.

He then got involved again as vice-chairman from January 2011 until July last year, during which time he appointed Chris Powell as manager and saw the club promoted from League One.

While still involved at The Valley as vice-chairman of the Charlton Athletic Community Trust, he is the man fronting the Kuwaiti takeover, having only been approached about the role less than a month ago.

He is no stranger to the club and watched his son Alex play for the Fleet several times in the 2004/05 season before he was forced to retire through injury. The former striker is now a journalist with talkSPORT.

"I was approached by KEH after being recommended by somebody in football," said Varney. "I went for a chat with Abdulla and it all went from there, and now I'm at Ebbsfleet.

"They are going to be quite active in these sorts of areas, in the M25 corridor. So my remit was to find a club with potential that we could rebuild and turn into a community club.

"He is fanatical about football. He's going to enjoy this and building something up is quite important for him.

"The club will be run in a financially responsible way. That's the way it will be done."

NON-LEAGUE TALK

Tonbridge Angels lose duo as old face makes return to Welling

FORMER Welling United striker Loik Pires has returned to the club after a 12-month absence.

The forward left Park View Road for Woking a year ago after the Wings' defeat in the Blue Square South play-off final.

But after a frustrating season in Surrey he has returned to Jamie Day's side, who have been promoted to the Blue Square Premier for next season.

He will be joined next season at **Welling** by midfielder Jake Gallagher and forward Kurtis Guthrie, who have both signed one-year deals to stay with the Wings.

Tonbridge Angels have brought in utility man Ryan Watts.

The 24-year-old, who can play in any position on the left-hand side, started his career at Brentford, where he made three first-team appearances.

His debut came as a sub in the 2004/05 season against Hull City, with two more sub appearances the following season against Cheltenham in the League Cup and Oxford in the LDV Trophy.

He has since played for AFC Wimbledon, Harrow Borough, Barnet, St Albans and Braintree.

The departure of Angels striker Frannie Collin has also been confirmed. The striker spent three years at Longmead, having arrived from Dover Athletic.

Maidstone United defender Steve Watt has committed to the club for another year.

Watt initially joined Stones on loan from Dover Athletic in February before making a permanent move in March.

He has now signed a one-year contract at the Gallagher Stadium with Ryman Premier football on the horizon following their promotion through the Ryman One South play-offs.

Meanwhile, goalkeeper Derren Ibrahim has left the club. Maidstone have quickly moved to replace him, with former Angels stopper Lee Worgan signing.

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE

DEPARTURE: Collin has left Angels

RUGBY LEAGUE

Picture: ADY KERRY

RETURN: Broncos played Hull FC at Priestfield

Scally not ruling out more involvement with Broncos at Gillingham

IN three weeks the hallowed turf at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium will be taken over by a very different ball game when the London Broncos return.

The Super League side are bringing rugby league back to Kent following the success of their 'on the road' game against Hull FC at the ground in May last year.

On Saturday, June 8, the side, who normally play at the Twickenham Stoop in west London, will be taking on Warrington Wolves.

Last summer a crowd of 3,930 watched the Broncos lose 14-12 to Hull in what was considered a successful venture.

"They enjoyed it so much last year, and we doubled their average crowd in our first game without too much promotion," said Gills chairman Paul Scally.

"We want to get a good crowd there. I think it's going to be a good game because they are one of the top sides."

Scally is not ruling out the idea that it could become a more regular fixture at the ground in the summer.

"I don't think they are very happy at The Stoop in Twickenham. I have long believed there should be a rugby side in Kent – I'm disappointed there isn't. We have got to look at the finances and the pitch and see whether it's what we want to do.

"They have a funny playing season from February to October, so we have the months of May and June where the stadium is empty."

He feels last year's attendance proved there is a thirst for the sport in the county, one that he will be following up personally by watching the game himself.

"It proved to me that there is an audience here in Kent," he said. "If they were here regularly they could get up to 6,000 or 7,000 turning up.

"I was forced to play rugby at school. I enjoyed it, but I preferred football. I do enjoy watching rugby, though. It's fast and furious.

"I went to watch the Broncos play at The Stoop and they scored 50-odd points. It was a brilliant night."

■ **Gates open at 11am and the action gets under way with an under-19 game at 12.30pm. There will be on-pitch entertainment throughout the day before the main event starts at 3pm.**

Tickets are priced at £15 for adults, £10 for senior citizens and £1 for juniors (under 19). To book, visit www.gillinghamfootballclub.com or phone the club's ticket office on 01634 300000.

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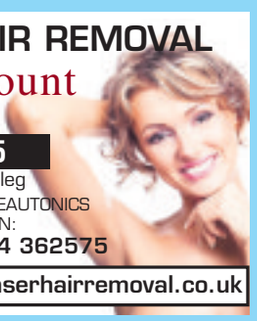

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